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Egypt to get Mirage-2000s

PARIS (R) — The French aircraft company Marcel Dassault will begin delivery of 20 Mirage-2000 multi-role combat jets, its top performance plane, to Egypt this year, industry sources said Wednesday. They added that the company was also in very advanced discussions for the sale of an additional 18 Mirage-2000s to Abu Dhabi, which agreed late last year to buy an initial 18. No value for the Egyptian contract was immediately available. The delta-wing Mirage-2000, France's top-line combat aircraft, entered service with the French air force in July 1984. It can fly at more than twice the speed of sound and reach an altitude of more than 18,000 metres.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تيمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية الراي

Prince Hassan returns from Pakistan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan returned home Wednesday evening after concluding a four-day visit to Pakistan during which he held talks with President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq on international political developments and bilateral relations. Few hours before leaving Pakistan for Jordan, the Crown Prince paid a visit to the tomb of the founder of Pakistan, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, and later held talks with the governor of Lahore. The Crown Prince told reporters in Lahore earlier that he exchanged views with President Zia on problems facing Pakistan, Jordan and the Islamic World and on further increasing cooperation between Amman and Islamabad, according to Reuters. The Prince was received at Amman airport by Minister of Court Adnan Abu Odch, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid and the Pakistani ambassador to Jordan and senior Jordanian officials.

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Cabinet forms new committee

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet formed, at its regular meeting Wednesday, a committee to study a new project on city and village planning and on a system of building in the Kingdom. The committee, which includes Minister of Communication Mohammad Al Zaben, Minister of Supply Ibrahim Ayyoub, Minister of Finance Hanna Odeh and Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Environment Hamdallah Al Nabulsi and Minister of Public Works Rayef Nijm.

Weizsaecker visit officially announced

AMMAN (Petra) — West German President Richard von Weizsaecker and his wife are due here early next month on a three-day official visit to Jordan at the invitation of Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, an official at the Royal Court announced Wednesday. Mr. Weizsaecker, who will begin the visit on Feb. 3, will be accompanied by a delegation of senior West German government officials.

Swedish trade minister expected

AMMAN (Petra) — Swedish Minister of Foreign Trade Mats Hellstrom is due here Sunday at the head of an economic delegation on a three-day visit to Jordan for talks with senior Jordanian officials on promoting trade and economic relations between the two countries. During the visit the delegation will meet with Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Basir, Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour and Central Bank Governor Mohammad Sa'id Al Nabulsi. They will also meet with Telco communications Corporation (TCC) Director General Mohammad Shaded Ismail and representatives of the private sector to strengthen bilateral economic and trade ties.

Top Japanese official to visit Jordan

TOKYO (Agencies) — Wasuke Miyake, newly appointed director of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau, will visit Jordan later this month for talks with senior Jordanian officials, the ministry announced Wednesday. It said Mr. Miyake will make the visit as part of a tour of four Middle Eastern countries to "exchange views on matters concerning bilateral political and economic relations and cooperation." Mr. Miyake will also visit Iran, Algeria and Saudi Arabia in his tour.

Percy, Bahraini leader hold talks

BAHRAIN (AP) — Former U.S. Senator Charles Percy, continuing a fact-finding tour of the Gulf region, had a wide-ranging session of talks Wednesday with the ruler of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa. The Gulf News Agency said they reviewed bilateral relations and current developments in the Gulf region, especially the 51-month-old Iran-Iraq war, and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Mr. Percy arrived in Bahrain earlier in the day at the conclusion of a two-day visit to Qatar.

Jordan, PLO 'seek Arab summit at League HQ in Tunis'

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In the wake of Saudi Arabia's refusal to call the long-delayed Arab summit in Riyadh in the foreseeable future, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have agreed to look for another venue for the conference and have launched an initiative to convince Arab leaders to attend it, according to well-informed and reliable sources.

The Jordan-PLO agreement on the initiative was reached during PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's visit to Jordan last week, the sources said, and it was further agreed that the Arab League Headquarters in Tunis is the most suitable place to hold the summit. During a visit by His Majesty King Hussein to Riyadh last week, Saudi Arabia's King Fahd "expressed reservations over hosting a summit that might deepen divisions in the Arab World," particularly that Syria and Libya oppose the idea, the sources said. But both Jordan and the PLO believe that in the face of the already existing Syrian and Libyan opposition, there is no need for an Arab consensus to convene the summit, the sources said. "If Jordan and the PLO succeed in rallying the support of the majority of the Arab countries then it will be enough," the sources, who requested anonymity, said. The sources said that other

Arab leaders have been approached with the idea of convening an early summit as planned by Jordan and the PLO but replies are still awaited. Jordan and the PLO are optimistic that the majority of the Arab countries will agree to attend the planned summit, the sources added. "Most countries are likely to attend, but they would hesitate to host a summit that will be boycotted by some Arab states," the sources said. "Therefore, the Arab League Headquarters in Tunis will be the most appropriate place, since Arab countries, particularly Saudi Arabia, will not have to face the embarrassment of hosting a summit despite Syrian and Libyan objections," the sources said. Inter-Arab disputes, particularly differences between the PLO leadership and the Syrian and Libyan governments, and the issue of Egypt's return to the Arab World, have been delaying the

convening of the summit.

Saudi Arabia, which was to have hosted the summit in November in Riyadh, has suggested that all inter-Arab differences be settled before the summit can be convened.

However, Jordan and the PLO believe that an Arab summit is the "proper forum for settling inter-Arab disputes and strengthening Arab solidarity," the sources said. "Jordan and the PLO respect and highly appreciate the Saudi stand on the issue," the sources said, "but they also believe that the current Arab situation is at a crossroads where something should be done to move things forward."

Jordan and the PLO have started formal talks on formulating a joint political strategy towards a solution to the Palestinian problem. But both the Kingdom and the Organisation have stressed, on different occasions, that any joint Jordanian-Palestinian action will need the backing of at least the majority of the Arab countries through an Arab summit decision.

Most Arab countries also favour the return of Egypt to the Arab World. Seventeen Arab countries and the PLO severed diplomatic and political relations with Egypt after Cairo signed a separate peace treaty with Israel in 1979. Jordan was the first country to resume the relations, in September 1984.

The PLO, which maintains contacts with Egypt, has repeatedly expressed the view that the restoration of Arab ties with Egypt should be preceded by an Arab summit decision on the issue.

Israeli jets stage raid in Bekaa

BEIRUT (AP) — Israeli warplanes on Wednesday mounted their first attack in Lebanon this year, bombing and strafing suspected Palestinian bases in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley, local radio stations reported. The Israeli military command claimed the planes "scored accurate hits" on a command post, used for staging anti-Israeli resistance attacks, near the town of Al Marj, 40 kilometres east of Beirut.

An unnamed Israeli army spokesman said in Tel Aviv that the "destroyed command post" belonged to the Popular Struggle Front, a splinter Palestinian group allied with Syrian-backed factions that rebelled against Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat. Beirut's rightist "Voice of Lebanon" radio said the jets struck at commando bases around the towns of Bar-Elias and Al-Marj behind Syrian lines on east Lebanon at 2:10 p.m. (1210 GMT). The broadcast said Palestinian and Syrian positions fired anti-aircraft guns on the raiding jets, but no hits were reported. Israeli planes bombed Palestinian and Lebanese militia bases in various parts of Lebanon 16 times last year. Israeli occupation forces in South Lebanon have been coming under almost daily attacks by resistance commandos.

Israelis study pullback

In Tel Aviv, Israel's 10-man inner cabinet Tuesday discussed a unilateral pullback from South Lebanon following the failure of withdrawal talks with Beirut. Prime Minister Shimon Peres planned the session to be exploratory with no final decision until after the arrival next Monday of United Nations Under-Secretary General Brian Urquhart, aides said. Details of the meeting will not be divulged.

An Israeli government source said Mr. Urquhart is likely to bring a plan for UNIFIL, the U.N. peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon, to be deployed from the international border to Israel's present "front line" along the Awali River.

Beirut studies Israeli decision to skip talks

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The Lebanese cabinet Wednesday discussed Israel's decision to stay away from the next round of troop withdrawal talks and Prime Minister Rashid Karami told reporters Lebanon wanted the talks to continue and would welcome international help to give them fresh impetus.

"Lebanon is keen that the discussions should continue in Naqura (site of the U.N.-hosted talks)," Mr. Karami said. "We are waiting for any international move to give the talks momentum."

After Monday's session, Israel said it was suspending its participation because Lebanon had not accepted its proposals to deploy U.N. forces in all areas it might vacate.

PLO leader attacks Sudan, Ethiopia over Falasha airlift

AMMAN (J.T.) — A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader has attacked Sudan and Ethiopia over the airlift of Ethiopian Jews to Israel and said the operation helped Zionists and imperialist interests.

Abdul Rahim Ahmad, a member of the Executive Committee of the PLO, told Reuters: "Sudan facilitated this operation, but we shall leave it to the heroic Sudanese people to pass judgment on this action which has been condemned."

"Ethiopia exploited the grave famine conditions in the country to strike a deal with the Zionist enemy to fly out Ethiopian Jews to our occupied territory. This can only lead to more seizure of our land, more expulsions of our people and more Jewish settlements," he added.

Sudan and Ethiopia have denied any involvement in the airlift, but have accused each other of complicity.

A prominent Kuwaiti parliamentarian Wednesday charged Sudan of collusion with Israel in airlifting Ethiopian Jews (Falashas) to Israel, while a Kuwaiti newspaper quoted government sources in Belgium as saying the operation was carried out with the Sudanese government's knowledge.

Lebanon wants to see an Israeli timetable for withdrawal before it agrees to a change in the mandate of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Beirut says this is a matter for it to discuss with the United Nations, not with Israel.

Deputy U.N. chief Brian Urquhart is due to arrive in the Middle East at the weekend as part of efforts to revive the deadlocked talks. Lebanon insists its army take over the entire south and hopes to move troops to Israel's Awali River "front line" to counter Israeli arguments that the army is weak for the job.

Armed police have begun moving down the militia-held coast road south of Beirut under a Syrian-backed plan.



U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz talks on the phone with President Ronald Reagan from his hotel room in Geneva after the conclusion of four rounds

of talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko on Tuesday. Standing next to Mr. Shultz is special adviser Robert McFarlane (AP wirephoto)

Government voices concern over agency's plans

Representatives of refugees, UNRWA staff stage protest

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Representatives of Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan and leaders of staff committees of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Wednesday staged a sit-in outside the UNRWA headquarters here in protest against the agency's plans to reduce its services, while Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Shawkat Mahmoud also voiced the Jordanian government's concern over the agency's plans.

A spokesman for the refugees told the Jordan Times that a group of about 35 protesters was received by the agency's acting director in Jordan Mr. Ely Saaf, on whom the group called on to convey the message of protest to UNRWA Commissioner General Olof Rydbeck and to the agency's executive council currently convening in Vienna and to United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

In two petitions, each signed by about 150 people, the refugee representatives said: "We denounce any procedures that the agency would take to cut any part of its services, which is currently at its minimum."

The petitions called on the UNRWA commissioner general, the host countries and the international community to exert all efforts to overcome "the claimed

deficit" of the UNRWA and to stop any further actions affecting the agency's services.

The spokesman said that refugee camp representatives threatened that if these cuts were applied "we are going to take steps against it."

In a press release from Vienna, Austria, on Wednesday, Mr. Rydbeck, addressing a hastily summoned meeting of departmental heads and field directors from the five areas of the Middle East where UNRWA runs schools, clinics and relief services, said that he has already decided to abolish 38 headquarters posts in Vienna and Amman and to deter planned

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(Continued on page 3)

Birzeit chief demands inquiry into Israeli fire on students in November

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The acting president of Birzeit University in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday called for an investigation of the Israeli army's handling of demonstrations last November in which students were fired on without warning.

A Palestinian student was shot to death, five other seriously wounded and an Israeli army officer hit in the head with a stone in the Nov. 21 incident when Israeli occupation troops opened fire on demonstrators in Birzeit campus who were chanting slogans condemning the Israeli occupation and praising Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's decision to convene the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Amman on Nov. 22.

The Birzeit violence followed another incident in Birzeit village, 32 kilometres north of Jerusalem, during which two villagers were shot dead and a number of others wounded when Israeli soldiers opened fire on a group of Palestinian demonstrators who were holding a similar gathering.

Gabe Baramke, acting president of the 2,400-student Birzeit University which is partly funded by Arab countries, called for an investigation at a news conference Wednesday and protested at the army's use of "deliberate force against the students without any warning."

Attorney Rajah Shehade presented a 23-page report compiled from sworn affidavits by student and faculty eyewitnesses. He said that the gunfire "did not commensurate with the degree of danger faced by the soldiers" and suggested they should have used rubber bullets.

Leighton Pratt, a British lecturer at the university, said he watched the incident from his home. "There were no warnings to the students, and no teargas was used" before the troops opened fire.

One soldier "fired about six shots. His aim was being directed at body level, not in the air nor at the ground," Mr. Pratt said. An Israeli military spokesman said the soldiers shouted at the students to disperse and their first shots were fired into the air. The spokesman said that sometime during the incident the soldiers used teargas but left unclear if it was used before or after the soldiers opened fire.

The army reported the day of the incident that students pelted

troops with stones and that an officer was injured in the head before soldiers fired at demonstrators. Mr. Baramke said he was most concerned about the obstruction of a private car, which was carrying a wounded student and failed to get to a hospital before the student died.

Doctors at the hospital said Sharaf Tibi, a 23-year-old engineering student from Khan Yunis in the occupied Gaza Strip, was dead on arrival from a gunshot wound below his heart.

"We will never know if Sharaf could have been saved if he had reached the hospital sooner," the report said. It quotes an affidavit by student Ali Burham, 24, one of three students who took Sharaf in a private automobile to the hospital.

Burham said Israeli soldiers stopped the car for 25 minutes at a checkpoint in Jifna, about seven kilometres from the hospital. He said the students stayed with Sharaf "to monitor his health condition" for at least some of the time they were stopped.

Burham said he noticed "that his pulse had stopped. We had been standing at the barrier for almost one-quarter of an hour."

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Klibi urges Italian initiative for Mideast peace

ROME (Agencies) — Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi told Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi Tuesday he hoped for European initiatives on Middle East problems during Italy's current presidency of the European Community.

A statement released by Mr. Craxi's office after the prime minister met Mr. Klibi said they discussed Middle East developments, particularly Arab-Israeli relations, Lebanon and possibilities of increased European-Arab dialogue.

The statement said that during "a cordial talk the most recent developments of the Middle East crisis were examined, with particular attention to the Arab-

Israeli conflict, the situation in Lebanon and the prospects for resumption of a European-Arab dialogue."

Mr. Craxi "repeated that Italy and Europe considered the Middle East question one of the key problems for international peace," the statement added.

Earlier, Mr. Klibi met Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti to discuss Western Europe's Middle East policies, Foreign Ministry officials reported.

The officials said the hour-long talks focused on ways to strengthen dialogue between the European Common Market and the Arab League.

efforts for a regional Middle East settlement, which included a series of visits to Jordan, Algeria, Tunis, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Rome began revealing a Middle East peace initiative in November, in anticipation of Italy's taking over the presidency of the 10-member Common Market on Jan. 1. Those contacts included talks between Premier Craxi and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat in Tunis a month ago.

Foreign Ministry officials also noted that Mr. Klibi's visit comes on the eve of an announced visit to Italy by Israel's Prime Minister Shimon Peres, who is expected to arrive in Rome in late February.

Shultz, Gromyko break ice in arms dialogue

GENEVA (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz have broken the ice in East-West relations but warned that their agreement to open new arms negotiations was only a first step.

Speaking at the airport before leaving Geneva Wednesday, Mr. Gromyko said a step had been made in establishing a dialogue between the superpowers.

"This is but a step compared to the immense tasks which are to be addressed in the course of the negotiations on space and nuclear arms," he said in his first public comment on the two days of talks.

Mr. Shultz, at a news conference late Tuesday night, called the agreement an important beginning, but added: "Many tough and complex issues remain to be resolved."

The two ministers agreed in 14½ hours of talks on Monday and Tuesday to open a new set of arms negotiations.

The format chosen — a single delegation divided into three working parties for strategic, intermediate and space weapons — was a simple compromise between the stances the two sides had maintained.

The United States had approached the Geneva talks with the aim of resuming negotiations on large reductions in the long and medium-range nuclear arsenals of both countries.

Thirteen months ago the Soviet Union had broken off separate talks on both categories of weapons, vowing not to return until the United States withdrew cruise and Pershing-2 missiles it had deployed in Western Europe. The U.S. missiles have not been withdrawn.

Moscow wanted most of all to prevent the United States pursuing President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), a research project into an anti-missile system that would involve lasers in space, which was quickly dubbed "Star Wars".

Western diplomats said Mr. Gromyko found in the idea of a single delegation a face-saving formula to allow a return to the bargaining table. The U.S. offer late Tuesday to give space weapons a prominent place in the forthcoming negotiations was the concession Mr. Gromyko wanted.

But Mr. Shultz said the United States was giving away little by agreeing to discuss space weapons.

The Reagan administration had maintained that the \$26 billion "Star Wars" project would not be a bargaining chip in the talks between Mr. Shultz and Mr. Gromyko.

Mr. Shultz said at his news conference: "We really don't believe in a bargaining chips."

He said President Reagan would seek congressional funding for any defence programme he felt necessary, including "Star Wars" research, while including it in the negotiating agenda.

"The main point is that we will be discussing all of these issues, and it is a fact that everything will be open for discussion," Mr. Shultz said.

Robert McFarlane, Mr. Reagan's national security adviser and a member of the Shultz team in Geneva, said, however, the United States gave no promise of halting tests of an anti-satellite defence system. Moscow had been seeking a moratorium on such tests.

Mr. Gromyko said the Soviet Union was willing to do its part in the forthcoming negotiations.

"I should like to express the hope that the United States will do the same. In other words, it will go its part of the road fully aware of the responsibility shared by the two great powers," he said.

The agreement reached Tuesday was far more than most Western diplomats had expected from the Shultz-Gromyko talks.

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U.N urged to renew Middle East peace bid

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United Nations, 40 years old this year, should make new efforts to achieve progress towards a Middle East settlement during the anniversary, Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Wednesday.

He said the U.N. was an appropriate framework for Middle East peace talks. Israel disputes this, saying the world body is prejudiced towards the Arabs.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar made his remarks at the first U.N. meeting of the year, a session of the Palestine Rights Committee, which Israel regards as politically unbalanced.

He said the persistent danger of conflict in the region underlined the need to find a settlement. He added that the General Assembly had directed him to make another attempt to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Israel and the United States

oppose to conference, which, according to the General Assembly, should include the Palestine Liberation Organisation as a full participant.

The Rights Committee re-elected Massamba Sarre of Senegal as its chairman. Oscar Oramas-Oliva of Cuba and Muhammad Zairi of Afghanistan, vice-chairmen, and Victor Gauci of Malta, rapporteur.

Meanwhile a Swedish spokesman in Stockholm said Wednesday Sweden's defence minister will visit Beirut in February to discuss the role of UNIFIL, the U.N. peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon, following Norway's threats to pull out of it.

Norway is drawing up plans to repatriate most of its 868 soldiers from UNIFIL unless the force's mandate is widened by April. Another Nordic member of UNIFIL, Finland, has also expressed concern over the mandate's limitations.

Sweden's 147-man contingent runs the force's field hospital and officials said earlier this month that because of their crucial humanitarian role the Swedish troops could not pull out.

Defence Minister Anders Thornborg will visit the Middle East from Feb. 9 to 17 and his intention is also to have discussions in Israel and Egypt, the Defence Ministry spokesman said.

The mandate for the 5,240-strong force comes up for renewal in April. UNIFIL has been in South Lebanon since 1978. The other members are Fiji, Ghana, Ireland, Netherlands, France and Italy.

Magazine warns of diminished U.S. influence in Middle East

CAIRO (AP) — The United States will lose much of its influence in the Middle East if the U.S. administration does not pursue a more vigorous policy in the search for regional peace, an Egyptian magazine has warned.

The state-owned weekly Al Musawar said President Hosni Mubarak will deliver that message to President Ronald Reagan when he confers with the U.S. chief executive in Washington on March 12.

"He will tell them that if the American role does not abandon its present 'negative neutrality,' and return to an active and effective role in peace efforts then danger will loom over the credibility of the American role," in the region, the magazine said.

Al Musawar made the comments in an edition scheduled for distribution Friday. The Associated Press obtained an advance copy.

In its comment, Al Musawar pointed to recent strains in U.S.-Jordanian relations as an example of the dangers facing the United States in maintaining influence with the Arabs as well as close links to Israel.

Jordan among the staunchest U.S. allies in the region, has sharply criticised U.S. support for Israel and has agreed to purchase Soviet air defence weapons after the administration withdrew an offer last March to sell Stinger ground-to-air missiles.

The magazine said Jordan "ran out of patience in despair at the possibility of there being a more objective, a more just American role regarding the facts of the Arab-Israeli conflict."

Egypt and Jordan have been working closely since they restored diplomatic relations on Sept. 25 in order to develop a common Arab strategy for pursuing peace talks with Israel.

The Egyptians have been saying for months that any revival of the peace process would require a stronger U.S. role to push the Israelis to the conference table.

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The U.N. Commissioner for Refugees in Sudan, Stephan Bodemar, said that around 20,000 Ethiopians are crossing into Sudan every week fleeing famine and civil war. This compared with an average of 6,000 a week last June.

"Their numbers have increased very dramatically in the last two weeks, and we have indications of thousands are on the way," he told Reuters.

Apparently trying to dissociate the Khartoum government from involvement in the airlift to Israel of Ethiopian Jews, the Sudanese official said:

"If someone comes to me and asks to go to Israel, I will not allow him. But if he says he's going to Belgium what do I know? We don't register people by religion. If someone needs help we help him."

Ethiopia has accused Sudan of complicity in the airlift of thousands of Ethiopian Jews to Israel.

President Hosni Mubarak has listed resolution of Taba as one of his three conditions for improving relations with the Jewish state, which have been frozen since Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

His other conditions include an Israeli troop withdrawal from Lebanon and improvements in conditions for Palestinians in Israeli-occupied areas.

The NPUP failed to win any seats in 458-member parliament during last May's elections.

Despite its lack of representation in parliament, the party is believed to have substantial influence among Egypt's intellectual class in Cairo and Alexandria as well as in worker areas in Aswan and the Nile Delta.

Efforts to contact an Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman for comment were unsuccessful.

The party charged that Egypt had agreed to enter talks on Taba because of "American pressures which link the increases in economic and military aid requested by the Egyptian government with the necessity of improving relations between the Egyptian government and the Israeli government."

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Tuesday his government had accepted an offer by Egypt to discuss stationing elements of the 10-nation Multinational Force of Observers in Taba, a 700-metre strip held by Israel but considered by Cairo to be part of the Egyptian Sinai desert.

Israel gave the Sinai back to Egypt three years ago as part of a 1979 peace treaty that postponed a decision on Taba and several other border points.

Meanwhile Egypt's pro-Moscow opposition party Wednesday criticised the Egyptian government for agreeing to talk with the Israelis over the Taba dispute.

In an editorial in its weekly Al

Sudan wants to curb outflow of Ethiopians

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan wants to curb the resettlement abroad of Ethiopian refugees crossing into its territory, according to Sudanese refugee officials.

One, who asked not to be identified, said the exodus of Ethiopian refugees from Sudan and their resettlement abroad was taking away people who could be useful — nurses, doctors, and skilled refugees. "If it could be stopped it would be ideal."

He told Reuters the programme was also encouraging other refugees to cross into Sudan, already heavily burdened by Africa's largest refugee population of over one million.

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Ethiopia has accused Sudan of complicity in the airlift of thousands of Ethiopian Jews to Israel.

Sudan says Ethiopia is promoting the operation in exchange for Israeli arms.

Military spokesman Babiker Abdul Rahim Babiker reiterated the Sudanese position, saying Ethiopian Jews were being transported from the Ethiopian Red Sea port of Massawa to Israel by boat.

"The same boats are bringing weapons into Ethiopia," he said. Babiker also charged that some of those weapons were funding their way to secessionist rebels in southern Sudan. The arms included rifles, mortars, machine guns, and SAM-7 and SAM-7 missiles, mostly Soviet-made and captured by Israel during its invasion of Lebanon in 1982, he added.

Commissioner Bodemar said 2,700 Ethiopian refugees were resettled outside Sudan through official U.N. and Sudanese channels in 1982. This was significantly below the number of Jewish agencies' claim to have lifted from Sudan.

Mr. Bodemar said there could be no official resettlement programmes operating secretly but he was not aware of any.

"We have not been involved in this issue at all," he said. He said the U.N. had appealed for an extra \$14 million to supplement its \$35 million budget for refugees in Sudan in 1983. "Even more will be needed," he said.

Sudan says it is spending more than it is receiving in international aid on land, security and infrastructure facilities for the refugees.

Former Turkish minister denies bribery charge

ANKARA (R) — Former Turkish Minister of State Ismail Ozdogar, who resigned last week, has denied a charge that he was guilty of bribery while in office.

The semi-official Anatolian News Agency said he denied talking to Turkey's biggest private shipowner, Ugur Mengencioğlu, who has made the bribery allegation. "I cannot recall talking to him," he said.

Mr. Ozdogar, who had responsibility for the energy industry, quit on the request of Prime Minister Turgut Ozal and the gov-

ernment announced there was a serious charge of corruption against him.

Justice Minister Necati Eldem said Mr. Ozdogar was accused by Mr. Mengencioğlu of bribery and that the shipowner had provided a tape recording as evidence.

Mr. Ozdogar was quoted by the agency as saying: "This plot has been prepared because of my decision to impose a tender system on oil transport and lifting restrictions on owning petrol stations."

Crippled Korean freighter under tow to Iranian port

BAHRAIN (R) — The South Korean freighter Hanjin Mariner, latest victim of renewed Iraqi missile attacks on merchant vessels in the Gulf, is being towed by Iranian tugs to Iran's Bandar Bushehr Port, shipping sources said Wednesday.

The Pusan-based owners of the 11,367 gross tonne vessel said one crewman died and another was wounded in Tuesday's air attack. Gulf shipping sources said the ship was hit on the Iranian side of the Gulf about 75 miles south of Bushehr and roughly 30 miles outside an Iraqi-imposed war zone in the north-east of the Gulf that takes in Iran's main oil export terminal at Kharg Island.

About four salvage tugs from the Western side of the Gulf went to and the Hanjin Mariner Tuesday but the Iranians told them to leave, the sources said.

Hanjin Mariner, owned by Hanjin Shipping Co. Ltd., was the second ship confirmed hit by Iraq in two days. The sources said the 14,345 gross tonne Panamanian bulk carrier Topaz Express had

been slightly damaged in the northern reaches of the Gulf.

The sources said Topaz Express was hit on Monday near the Iranian port of Bandar Khomeini in an area north of Kharg known to seamen as "suicide alley" because of Iraqi attacks.

But they could not confirm Iraq's claims that its warplanes attacked one other merchant vessel on Monday and a further two, in addition to the Hanjin Mariner, Tuesday.

A total of 53 merchant ships, mainly foreign tankers, have been confirmed hit in the Gulf by either Iran or Iraq since the beginning of last year in the so-called "tanker war," an extension of their ground war, now in its fifth year.

Iraq opened the attacks with the aim of disrupting Iran's oil exports. Tehran's main revenue source, Iran started to retaliate last May with raid on merchant ships using ports on the Western side of the Gulf.

Oman denies harbouring U.S. troops during hijack

MUSCAT, Oman (AP) — Oman has denied the United States had sent a commando team to Masirah Island for possible storming of the Kuwaiti Aflairer recently hijacked to Iran.

An official statement issued by the Foreign Ministry "categorically denied" the report by a U.S. magazine and charged it was "a deliberate conspiracy aimed at tarnishing the Sultanate's reputation and good relations with its neighbours."

The statement said the Sultanate would not allow its territory, waters or airspace to be used for intervention against "any brotherly or friendly neighbouring country."

It stressed that Oman upholds international principles and traditions, pledging to "continue sincere efforts to maintain regional and international security and stability, while firmly rejecting any pressure of intervention."

U.S. to take part in Taba talks

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The U.S. will participate in talks next week between Israel and Egypt on deploying an international peace-keeping force in the disputed Red Sea coastal strip of Taba, the State Department said Wednesday.

"We have been asked by both governments to be there and we will be," spokesman Alan Romberg told reporters. "Obviously we welcome the resumption of these talks on this issue."

He declined to elaborate. Officials said the United States would be "sitting in" on the discussions, able to express its views if it wished.

"The talks will be between Egypt and Israel," one said. "Obviously both feel more comfortable if we are there."

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Tuesday his government had accepted an offer by Egypt to discuss stationing elements of the 10-nation Multinational Force of Observers in Taba, a 700-metre strip held by Israel but considered by Cairo to be part of the Egyptian Sinai desert.

Israel gave the Sinai back to Egypt three years ago as part of a 1979 peace treaty that postponed a decision on Taba and several other border points.

Meanwhile Egypt's pro-Moscow opposition party Wednesday criticised the Egyptian government for agreeing to talk with the Israelis over the Taba dispute.

In an editorial in its weekly Al

Walid Amman, tel. 245900. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lubwidi, 374-40. De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lubwidi, 661757. Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abadi, 23541. Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 771331.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 771751. Arab American Church (Inter-denominational) meets at Baptist School in Simeisani, 816534. Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 25283.

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FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

23:20 Cairo (MS) 03:15 London (BA)

Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port

ARRIVALS

09:15 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 09:15 Bahrain (RJ) 09:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 09:45 Kuwait (RJ) 09:45 Jeddah (RJ) 09:45 Cairo (RJ) 10:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 10:00 Beirut (RJ) 10:35 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 11:30 Istanbul, Ankara (TK) 12:35 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)

DEPARTURES

05:45 Cairo (RJ) 06:50 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH) 07:00 Beirut (RJ) 07:00 Damascus, Paris (AF) 08:45 Beirut (MEA) 11:00 Vienna, New York (RJ) 11:15 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ) 12:00 Athens (RJ) 12:00 Riyadh, Dhahran (SV) 12:20 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ) 12:30 Ankara, Istanbul (TK) 13:00 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)

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USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance 193, 775111 First aid, fire, police 199 Blood bank 775121 Fire rescue 661111 Police 192, 2111, 22090-3 Police headquarters 39141 Traffic police 56390-1 Electric power Co. 36381-2 Municipal water service 77125-4 Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 53533

TAXIS: Malpaya taxi 41541 Basam taxi 31857 Sayah taxi 42565 Hussein taxi 31776 Khalid taxi 66488 Al Kooz taxi 21121 77974

HOSPITALS

Husseini Medical Centre 813813-32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 44281-4 Akleh Maternity, J. Amman 42441 J. Amman Maternity 42362 J. Amman Hospital 667227-6 Shamsi Hospital 669131 Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667158 Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667158 Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667158 Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667158

GENERAL

Jordan Television 773111 Radio Jordan 774111 Ministry of Tourism 42311 Hotel complaints 666412 Price complaints 661176 Information 12 Jordan and Middle East calls 17 Overseas calls 10 Cable or telegram 200/140 Repair service 11

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Abdul Qader Allala 96046

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two lives lost in week's accidents

AMMAN (Petra) — Two persons were killed and 70 others were injured in 158 road accidents which occurred in Jordan in the past week, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Public Security Department. The bulletin said that most of the accidents, 120 in all, occurred in Amman.

Finance committee to review tax law

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament financial committee will hold a meeting Sunday under the chairmanship of deputy Yacoub Mu'ammur, to discuss the Audit Bureau report for 1983, the bonds law and an amendment to the additional tax law. The house's legal committee will also hold a meeting Saturday, under the chairmanship of deputy Salim Oudah, to discuss a provisional law amending the education law.

ICRC president due Sunday

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Mr. Alexander Hay, is due here on Sunday for a visit to Jordan. He will attend meetings of the permanent commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies due to open in Amman on Jan. 14. The commission will discuss violations of the Geneva Conventions and production and storage of chemical weapons among other topics of concern to Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Cabinet agrees to loan antiquities

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet Wednesday gave its consent to loaning a collection of Jordanian antiquities to the Italian Archaeological Institute to display them in Italy. The institute will organise exhibitions of the antiquities in Rome during March.

Majali confers with atomic agency official

AMMAN (Petra) — University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali conferred Wednesday with the assistant director of the international relations department at the French Atomic Agency Commission. They discussed cooperation between the university and the commission in scientific research and the exchange of expertise in nuclear power. Also discussed was cooperation in nuclear physics.

Refinery's sales up for last year

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company's (JPRC) sales of all oil products totalled 2,581,001 tonnes during the year 1984, representing an increase of nine per cent over 1983 sales, JPRC's Director General Sa'd Al Tal has said. Motor oil sales ranked first, diesel oil sales registered second, followed by gasoline, Mr. Tal added.

Court sentences hashish smokers

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Assad Farid Sawar and Mahmoud Dahdah to six months in prison and the payment of JD 50 each for smoking hashish. The military governor Wednesday endorsed the sentences.

Salt office issues 4,715 work permits

SALT (Petra) — A total of 4,715 work permits were issued by Salt Labour Office to Arab and foreign workers during the last year. Director of Salt Labour Office Kamal Nshewat said that the 7,356 labourers of which 3,726 are Jordanians, are working in 1,117 factories, companies and institutions in Salt and nearby towns.

WAJ to attend water symposium

AMMAN (Petra) — The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) is to take part in a symposium on underground water layers to be organised in India by the United Nations on Jan. 14. The WAJ will be represented at the 10-day seminar by Mohammad Abu Taha from the authority's water resources department.



Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat (right) meets with Her Highness Princess Basma and Minister of Labour and Social Development Tayseer Abdul Jabbar (second left) to discuss the achievements of the Queen Alia Jordan Welfare Fund over the past years (Petra photo)

Obaidat pledges governmental support for charitable, humanitarian activities

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat Wednesday pledged full governmental support for the activities of humanitarian and charitable institutions in Jordan, which are supervised and organised under the auspices of the Queen Alia Jordan Welfare Fund (QAJWF).

Addressing a meeting to review QAJWF's achievements in the past years, Mr. Obaidat said that the government will seek to achieve more coordination and cooperation among charitable and voluntary societies working in the field of social development to guarantee further success.

The meeting was attended by Her Highness Princess Basma, president of QAJWF's board of trustees, Minister of Labour and Social Development Tayseer Abdul Jabbar and a number of the board's members.

During the meeting they reviewed the work and achievements of the QAJWF which included the establishment of centres for the rehabilitation of the handicapped, offering aid to charitable societies and preparing studies and holding training courses to help give momentum to various social development schemes. During the meeting a general QAJWF plan for the coming five years was also reviewed.

Second woman stands for council seat

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Special to the Jordan Times

SALT — The second woman in the history of Jordan to nominate herself as a candidate for the membership of a municipal council, Miss Suhaila Ahmad Awamleh said Wednesday that although her chances of being elected do not exceed one per cent, nevertheless "I'm going to take the gamble just to prove that women in Jordan have the ability to stand side by side with men in building our country."

The 32-year-old lady, who is "running" as a candidate for the membership of the forthcoming Salt municipal council elections to be held at the end of January, told the Jordan Times that the old-fashioned mentality and tribal pressure in Jordanian society stand between securing women's ambitions.

Miss Awamleh said: "Unfortunately, when a woman nominates herself for a governmental post in the rural areas, the old generation would always com-



Suhaila Ahmad Awamleh

ment 'what has become of men, have they died' and they would end by saying that women should be kept at home."

Questioned about her family's attitude towards her step, she said that they never opposed her concept and added that they support her entirely and give her self-

confidence. Miss Awamleh, who obtained a high school diploma and is running a dress shop said that with the thread of hope she has for being elected as a member of the council, she has got lots of new ideas to convey to the council in order to contribute to developing her hometown. She plans to: call for setting up beautifying projects for Salt like those being launched in Amman municipality, to expand and increase the current children's play-grounds, to enlarge the city's sports club and to open vocational centres which cost less than those in the private sector and these centres would be especially for women to gain experience and education.

The first woman in Jordan to nominate herself for such a post was Mrs. Fairouz Nicola Khouri who ran as a candidate for the membership of the Fuhels municipal council elections. However, she did not obtain enough votes to be on the town's municipal council.

Former assistant secretary of state discusses American policies

Jordan, U.S. friendship will remain strong, Sisco says

By Ara Voskian
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Joseph Sisco said Wednesday that Jordan will remain a staunch friend of the U.S., despite the general feeling of disappointment on the official and popular levels in the area.



Joseph Sisco

his country will continue to play a role in the region and that it "cannot afford a political vacuum."

Soviet role

Dr. Sisco, who is currently on a private Middle East tour, said at a press conference here that the U.S. will continue to be a third and indispensable party in the region. He said America is committed to achieving peace in the region and that the U.S. will continue to believe that the Jordanian government has been in the forefront of countries supporting the principle of co-existence of people involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Dr. Sisco was received Wednesday by His Majesty King Hussein, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Foreign Minister Taher Masri and Information Minister Laila Sharaf. Regarding these meetings, Dr. Sisco said "they reflected several impressions that the situation was moving positively in the Middle East."

He said the U.S. has sought to help the situation in the Middle East "in a low key way" and that no new initiative should be expected to emerge soon to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Withdrawal from Lebanon

Dr. Sisco, who arrived here from Tel Aviv, said that after holding talks with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and other top Israeli officials, "I found a tremendous emphasis and priority in Israel to deal with the deteriorating economy." He said they are also preoccupied with how to withdraw from Lebanon and said he had the "impression" that the Lebanese government is moving slowly into an agreement with Israel on a partial or total Israeli unilateral withdrawal from South Lebanon "over the next few days."

He said the U.S. has sought to help the situation in the Middle East "in a low key way" and that no new initiative should be expected to emerge soon to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Dr. Sisco, who is on a trip sponsored by the United States Information Agency (USIA), said the current U.S. attitude should not be regarded as a "policy of disengagement." However, he added, the U.S. "does not want to take on a dramatic initiative when the gap between the two sides (Arabs and Israelis) remains wide."

He said that the U.S. was committed to United Nations resolution 242 and U.S. President Ronald Reagan's 1982 peace initiative. "The U.S. will only be involved at the right level for involvement," he added.

Dr. Sisco, who will also visit Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, said

Jordan, Qatar ratify health cooperation agreement

DOHA (Petra) — Jordan and Qatar have exchanged documents of ratification of a health cooperation agreement signed by the two countries in Doha last April. Under the agreement, the two countries will cooperate in health-related services, especially in combating endemic and contagious diseases, they will exchange health assistance and coordinate steps to improve health care and will also open the chance for specialists and physicians from both countries to benefit from health expertise in the other country.

The two countries will also draw up principles for cooperation to facilitate citizens from Jordan and Qatar to have access to health services in either country.

Under the agreement, the two countries will exchange data connected with scientific activities, seminars and conferences as well as books and publications on medical subjects and pharmaceutical industries.

Qatari students

Also, Qatari students will be accepted as trainees at Jordanian nursing and paramedical centres and Qatari instructors will be arriving in Amman to give lectures at these institutes. The two sides agreed to set up a special ad hoc committee to follow up the implementation of the provisions of the agreement.

The agreement was signed by Jordan's Ambassador to Qatar Khalid Obaidat and the director of the international agreements and conferences department at the Qatari Foreign Ministry, Mr. Mohammad Nour Al Obaidati.

Only S. Arabia fulfils 1984 aid commitment

By Leila Deeb
Reuters

AMMAN — Only Saudi Arabia, out of seven Arab countries which pledged annual financial aid to Jordan totalling \$1,200 million, fulfilled its commitments last year, according to a senior Jordanian official.

Saudi Arabia, its share set at \$358 million, was one of seven Arab oil-producing states which pledged aid to Jordan, as well as Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), at an Arab summit meeting in Baghdad in 1978. Algeria, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) also pledged

aid to all three. Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akel Al Fayez has thanked Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, which reduced its payments last May to about \$100 million a year because of budgetary constraints.

He also urged the UAE and Qatar to honour their commitments to help Jordan "withstand the limitless designs of the Israeli enemy," the official Jordanian News Agency, Petra, quoted him as saying in messages to the leaders of the two countries.

Jordan has received no aid from Algeria and Libya, and Iraq stopped payments after war broke out with Iran in 1980.

Zaben, Klibi to review Arab satellite issues

AMMAN (Petra) — Communications Minister Mohammad Adnoub Al Zaben will go to Tunis Thursday for talks with Arab League Secretary-General Khalil Klibi on issues connected with the Arab satellite to be launched next month. Dr. Zaben, who is chairman of the general assembly of the Arab Satellite Communications Organisation (ARASAT) held talks with Mr. Klibi last month on the Arab satellite project.

The talks during Dr. Zaben's four-day stay in Tunis will cover measures taken to transfer all Arab communications, currently being conducted through foreign space networks, to the new Arab space satellite communications network. Also to be discussed are matters connected with the ser-

vices the Arab satellite will be offering especially in communications among Arab countries.

The Arab Satellite Communications Organisation general assembly had decided at its meeting in Amman last April to authorise ARASAT's board to take the necessary measures to switch all Arab communications to the Arab satellite.

Dr. Zaben is also expected to meet with his Tunisian counterpart to discuss ways to promote cooperation in telecommunications between Tunisia and Jordan. Dr. Zaben is accompanied on the visit by ARASAT Director General Ali Masri and two senior officials from the Ministry of Communications.

Innovative centre tackles medical curricula, training problems

By Simonetta Carr
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Dr. Kandil Shaker Shubair, director of the Centre for Educational Development for Health Personnel of the University of Jordan (CEDUH), has been, since his graduation, very much interested in medical education innovation. He has conducted a good deal of research on the situation regarding the training of physicians in Jordan and has contributed to the innovations in this field.

It was during one of these detailed researches, conducted in 1978, that Dr. Shubair realised that the medical school in Jordan was not meeting the needs of the students. Since then he has cooperated with the University of Jordan to try and alleviate this problem.

"The physician training structure in Jordan is presently in a state of transition, moving away from traditional medical education towards a programme which better addresses the competence necessary for professional medical practice," he wrote in his report in 1980.

The medical school curriculum in Jordan, as most medical curricula around the world, is patterned after the British system of medical education, which stresses the acquisition of knowledge, and a prescribed sequence starting with the study of basic science. "The result is a medical graduate trained primarily as a scientist-physician as opposed to a practitioner-physician," Dr. Shubair said.

Curriculum problems

He also found medical education literature to be very limited in identifying the gains as well as the problems due to the traditional model of education. "A medical curriculum should address the realities of health care needs," he said. "It is a waste of time to teach competencies which deal with non-existent conditions, and at the same time to neglect acquisition of skills which deal with everyday problems." He said that this method of teaching, which concentrates on content matter and give little emphasis to the development of a community-related oriented physician could be attributed to the poor performance shown by the students in clinical skills.

The existing curriculum at the Jordan Medical School was then analysed through the use of a questionnaire directed at faculty members. The results of a survey of general practitioners in the country and the examination of the curriculum master time schedule. A model medical programme was then designed including the com-

petencies arrived at as being needed by the medical graduate.

Under the inspiration of World Health Organisation (WHO) programmes and the examples of other new medical institutions around the world, which he visited and studied thoroughly, Dr. Shubair tried to advise and support the Jordan Medical School in the planning of their new curriculum.

"This last step requires careful attention to insure the needed attitudinal as well as behavioural changes," he said. "Faculty members must be aided in their transition from a didactic role to a leadership role. Students must be motivated to assume more of a partnership, instead of a recipient role in the learning process and staff must be led to make structural and functional changes which support the continued development of the new curriculum.

By meeting this challenge, the realities of health care in Jordan will make substantial progress toward improving the quality of life for the people in Jordan."

As director of the CEDUH, Dr. Shubair is mainly offering advice to the Jordan Medical School, which counts five of its deans and professors as members of the CEDUH Board of Trustees. The university's president, Dr. Abdul Salem Al Majali, is also very favourable to the project, but such a radical change of curriculum and methods of education seems to take more than just time.

Changing slowly

Miss Nasrin Malabry, the instructional designer for the CEDUH and a WHO consultant, explained to the Jordan Times that "unless a school starts completely new, it is hard to change. In America, universities often start a completely separate unit to include these new curricula and methods."

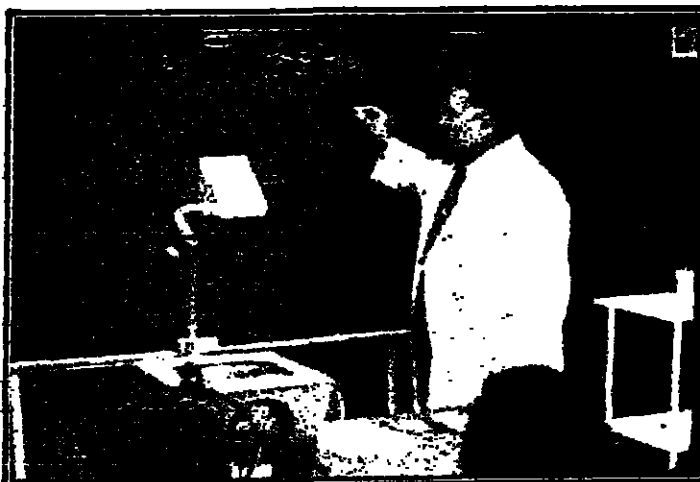
In order to perform such a change, Miss Malabry continued, "a faculty needs to become oriented towards those goals and it requires a large supporting staff, since a

community-oriented curriculum requires a fuller individual attention from the teaching staff with smaller classes of students, only 50-100 per class and a greater dedication to a job that becomes a real mission. Most medical professors today are also practising physicians and are busy with research on top of that. Most of them feel, 'What's in it for me?'"

Besides, Miss Malabry says that if a classical school tried to adapt to a new programme but fails, "it is a disaster." Operating on an horizontal rather than vertical curriculum takes a good leader who doesn't dictate, a facilitator who is convinced of this method, she said. Most classical doctors want to have proof of the superiority of this method before accepting it, they don't want to experiment, Miss Malabry added.

A teacher in a community-oriented medical school will have to be totally devoted to the cause and the students, and will probably need to stop practising and place his priority on teaching rather than research. "No one gets credit for teaching," said Miss Malabry.

What Dr. Shubair and the CEDUH are trying to do at the Jordan University Medical School is to build an awareness of the needs of the country, slowly changing the attitude of fixed curriculum. They try to build cooperation across departments, to make the faculties aware of new ways and methods and to influence the programmes towards the needs of the community. Miss Malabry says that the Jordan University Nursing School has done excellently in this direction, initiating their own changes in the curricula. The School of Pharmacy is also enthusiastic, while the School of Dentistry has recently just started. "We hope to be able to start working more in newer universities, such as Yarmouk, where the structure isn't fixed yet," she said.



The Centre for Educational Development for Health Personnel is slowly changing the perception of medical teaching (above) to include more emphasis on clinical skills (below) in order to develop community-related physicians who can competently cope with problems facing the medical sector in Jordan (J.T. file photos)



India's opposition has only itself to blame

By Stephen R. Wilson
Associated Press

NEW DELHI — The decimation of India's opposition in parliamentary elections has raised fears that democracy will be stifled by virtual one-party rule of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party.

Political commentators agree the squabbling opposition parties and their aging leaders have no one to blame but themselves for their routs but they warn the untested Gandhi against accepting the result as a mandate for arrogant ruling of the world's most populous democracy.

The respected India Today news magazine said: "It could reduce parliament to a rubber stamp operation and stall the reform of political institutions ... It could make for an arrogant ruling party which whitewashes yesterday's sins."

Never in 37 years of independence has the opposition been so under-represented in the Lok Sabha, the governing Lower House of Parliament. When the

eight Lok Sabha, convenes for its first session Jan. 15, opposition parties will fill less than one fifth of the 507 seats.

The House has 542 elected seats but polls were postponed in troubled Punjab and Assam states and in other constituencies due to snow, death of candidates and the Bhopal gas leak.

Mr. Gandhi now has the two-thirds majority needed to make changes in the constitution, including the long-debated proposed shift to a presidential form of government.

"It's sad," said Kuldip Nayar, a prominent syndicated political columnist in a parliamentary comment, "the opposition acts as a pressure. It is supposed to be vigilant and keep the government on its toes. Now there is a danger because there is no check."

The biggest losers in the elections were the so-called national opposition parties, who won only 47 seats among them.

Among the casualties were two of the nation's best-known opposition leaders: A.B. Vajpayee, chief of the right-wing Bharatiya

Janata (Indian people's) Party, and Chandra Shekhar, head of the Janata (people's) Party. Both had been mentioned as possible prime minister candidates.

The main survivor was 83-year-old former Prime Minister Charan Singh, but his oppressed Worker-Farmer Party won only three seats.

For the first time, the major opposition in parliament will be a regional party, the Telegu Desam of former movie star N.T. Rama Rao, chief of Andhra Pradesh state. It won 28 seats, all in Andhra Pradesh, and has little or no following in the rest of the country.

Next in strength is the Marxist Communist Party with 22 seats. The Oct. 31 assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi also spelled death for the opposition.

The slaying spawned a sympathy wave for her son and robbed the opposition of its one rallying point: Defeat Mrs. Gandhi's increasingly authoritarian ways.

Plagued by bickering, the opposition failed to form an electoral alliance and wound up splitting



Rajiv Gandhi

the vote by fielding several candidates for each seat.

During the campaign, Mr. Gandhi blistered the opposition leaders, accusing them of being anti-Indian, of cooperating with terrorists and secessionists.

The opposition turned off voters by promising a coalition government — reviving memories of the 1977-79 Janata-led gov-

ernment that fell apart amid factional feuding.

"Our theory of coalition government didn't carry conviction with the people," conceded Ramakrishna Hegde, Janata leader and chief minister of Karnataka state. "They said if the opposition parties cannot come together on seat adjustments, how could they unite to form a government?"

Besides Mr. Hegde, Rama Rao and Farooq Abdullah, the former chief minister of Kashmir, few opposition leaders with national standing are left.

"The opposition leaders, be- dragged and thoroughly discredited, have in the eyes of the public come to represent an effete and dying species in Indian politics," columnist Nikhil Chakravarty wrote in the leftist "Patriot" newspaper. "They are not only out of date but stand today like a pathetic specimen of extinct prehistoric animals."

Despite the magnitude of the Congress victory, close to half the vote went to other parties, indicating there still is a huge oppo-

sition constituency to be garnered.

Minoo Masani, well-known statesman and a drafter of India's constitution, maintains that by winning 49 per cent of the vote from 60 per cent of the electorate Congress has popular support of only 20 per cent of the voting population.

"Doesn't that make the Congress quite a paper tiger?" said Mr. Masani, who suggests the opposition form a single federal party.

Columnist Nayar says the election results suggest that a strong, viable political opposition may not be possible under India's parliamentary system. He calls for a switch to a presidential form of government or a system of proportional representation.

"What we have now is in a way already a presidential system, but without the checks and balances," he said.

So far, Mr. Gandhi has shown no sign of abusing his power and has pledged to cooperate with the opposition on national issues.

Geneva is a start

THE Gromyko-Shultz talks have come to a remarkable success. More important than the two superpowers agreeing to which type of missile belonging to which category of arsenal or talks is the agreement to renew talk.

The compromise is in itself impressive. Debate of the "Star Wars" is to be traded for a discussion on the intermediate-range missiles, with START about getting a new start. The world must be happy with the achievement.

Both the U.S. and the Soviet governments must now have a tremendous amount between them to do, since there is indeed a set of complex questions ahead of them to study and to answer. But this is okay, for the alternative is clearly the agony of a wild arms race and a lot of psychological and economic suffering that would go with it.

In East-West relations this may be a breakthrough, or the beginning of one. Successes are, or often contribute to, solutions or breakthrough, and we sincerely hope the Geneva meetings have achieved a good step towards global detente.

The Middle East usually suffers its agony in silence when there is rapport between nations, especially the two superpowers. It is on the brink of explosion when there is tension in the international atmosphere. Maybe something different would be done this time to erase the explosiveness of the situation in this area — once and for all.

The Soviet leadership has often had its problems and faults, but it is decidedly undeniable that it has always been in favour of international understanding. It is now a question of whether President Reagan is ready to be Great among the American statesmen. Not a chance in ten or so would have made him Man of the World had he had him only as a president contender and not presidential of the United States.

If the U.S. president decides he is going to play his noble role to the full, it just might be possible to do good things for the whole world.

In global settlements, the Middle East must be an integral part, and American-Soviet understanding is essentially necessary for any positive move that can be made anywhere in this land. Let us all hope that this Geneva is the right start. For, in the end, the human element is always more important than all worldly possessions and man-made missiles.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Let's not fight over Kreisky

WE HAVE heard of a new initiative for resolving the Middle East issue. This time it came from former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, but nothing about the nature of the new initiative has been disclosed. It is rumoured that the new initiative is a common denominator between the Fez and the Reagan plans and embodies U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and the Soviet call for an international conference on the Middle East. We also learnt that Kreisky is keen on keeping this initiative secret as he intends to offer it first to Israel and the United States before revealing its contents.

It is premature for any one to pass judgment on this initiative which is still secret. But it is useful to mention that Jordan's proposals of peace in exchange for land remains a practical and feasible solution and enjoys the support of the Arab countries and many world nations. But it is quite doubtful that Israel would accept this principle if it is contained in the Kreisky initiative.

However, it is also premature to express pessimism over the new proposal, and it is unadvisable for the Arabs to renew their differences over this initiative which has not been born yet. The Arabs should realise that their intrinsic force is essentially instrumental for making any constructive initiative to succeed.

Al Dustour: Defusing an Israeli charge

THE OPENING of the coastal road from Beirut to the southern regions of Lebanon is a most positive achievement by the national unity government for months. The opening of the road constitutes a key to the solution of other outstanding problems and is helpful towards solving the problem of the occupation of the South.

Fighting among the various factions, which had delayed the opening of the road for so long, had greatly damaged the prestige of the Beirut government and its credibility. The internal fighting was used by Israel as an excuse to claim that the Lebanese army was incapable of ensuring peace and security in the South. With the opening of the road, the Lebanese government has thus removed this excuse and stole away from Israel another means of pressure which it had been using at the Naqoura negotiations in a bid to impose its will on Lebanon.

The opening of the road means the way is open for the various factions to pursue efforts towards total reconciliation and it also serves as a reply to the Israelis who were trying by every means to blackmail Lebanon.

Sawt Al Shaab: Safeguarding rights to independence

JORDAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT that it is buying defensive weapons from the Soviet Union came to reemphasise the country's right to buy weapons from any source in order to secure its defence and protect its citizens. Jordan has on several occasions reiterated its rejection of pressure and compromises over any arms deal with any nation and the Armed Forces commander in chief's statement that national interests will acquire priority over all other issues reaffirms Jordan's principles and national stand.

Jordan shoulders an enormous military burden for defending the Arab Nation and its Armed Forces require modern weapons to enable them to carry out their duties. The successive Jordanian governments have allocated considerable funds over the years for the purchase of arms and for developing the Armed Forces with help from other Arab countries in implementation of Arab summit resolutions. But the reduction of Arab financial help to Jordan has prompted this country to borrow the required money for buying the weapons and to confront danger and aggression.

We are grateful to those Arabs who have been helping Jordan but we would like to say that discontinuing Arab aid means weakening the steadfastness of the Arab inhabitants under Israeli rule and rendering the Armed Forces incapable of shouldering their responsibilities in full.



Arab News

Enter 'compassion fatigue'; exit charities

By Christopher Hanson
Reuters

LONDON — Nineteen eighty-four was a year of serious famine in Africa and relief poured in, but aid agencies say nearly twice as much is needed to stem starvation in 1985.

Relief officials are worried that what they term "compassion fatigue" will set in and aid will slacken before the drought-induced food crisis has run its course.

The British charity OXFAM foresees long-term shortages and a need for emergency aid well into 1986 even if rain comes.

In Ethiopia, civil war has combined with the drought to threaten between seven and nine million of the 41 million inhabitants with starvation. Relief officials fear Sudan may soon face a crisis of comparable size. Nearly 20 other countries are hard-hit, especially Chad and Mozambique.

The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) says 21 African countries which received a total of 3.3 million tonnes of food last year will need 6.1 million tonnes in 1985.

Donor governments have pledged large amounts this year, but roughly 2.4 million of the 6.1 million tonnes for next year must still

be found. Grain deliveries can take six months or more.

In addition to food, there is a need for more aid in transporting, distributing, and storing grain.

"Unless this is done urgently, Africa will suffer from an unparalleled catastrophe," Adebayo Adedeji, executive secretary of the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa, warned last month.

The outside world has responded vigorously in recent months.

Washington has pumped in \$250 million worth of aid since October and says it will give \$1 billion in 1985. It is also conducting an airlift of emergency aid to refugees in Sudan who have fled from civil war areas of Ethiopia.

An estimated 100,000 have arrived since September, joining tens of thousands already in refugee camps, and up to a quarter million more may flee, according to relief agencies in the area.

The 10-nation European Community provided about 200 million dollars' worth of food aid for Africa in 1984 and has earmarked 315 million dollars' worth this year.

Australia says it will have provided 80 million dollars' worth in the 12 months ending in July 1985. Officials say Japan gave

\$115 million in aid between January and October 1984, and will have provided another \$50 million by March.

Moscow has provided 300 trucks, 24 helicopters, 12 Tupolev transport aircraft and 10,000 tonnes of rice, U.N. relief officials say. More help has been pledged, including water drilling equipment, baby milk and medical supplies.

Israel has brought many of Ethiopia's 25,000 black Jews — known as the Falashas and alleged to be descended from one of the wandering tribes of ancient Israel — to live in the Jewish state. The evacuation was speeded up in November.

In Ethiopia, port and transport bottlenecks which slowed food distribution late last year are less severe, but the picture is still grim. Food aid pledged by Western governments will drop off sharply in March and OXFAM says Ethiopia faces a grain shortfall of 500,000 tonnes in 1985.

It says that in Sudan — hit by an influx of some 100,000 refugees from civil war in Chad, as well as Ethiopian "exiles" — the 1985 grain shortfall could be over 300,000 tonnes.

An OXFAM spokesman attributed the surge in aid to Ethiopia during late 1984, and large amounts pledged for January and February to Western television reports, showing dying babies and adults like walking skeletons.

The drop in aid pledged for March was a sign of "compassion fatigue", with televised horror losing its impact.

A Save the Children Fund spokesman in London said it was hard to convey the scale of Sudan's hunger problem. Communications are less advanced, making all-important television news coverage difficult.

Similar difficulties of access have made food shortages in Chad, Mozambique, Mali and Niger difficult to publicise.

Hardest of all, the OXFAM spokesman said, is to interest the Western public in long-term aid needed to end the African hunger cycle: Projects to halt soil erosion, slow the growth of deserts, build roads, promote food self-sufficiency.

Private citizens and governments in the West respond to emergencies, he said, but by the time a famine sets in it is already too late for many victims. Ethiopia, for instance, had warned for two years of a coming famine, but only when it began did the West respond energetically.

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Brazil opposition candidate signals change

By Bryna Brennan
Associated Press

BRASILIA — Campaign slogans say opposition presidential candidate Tancredo Neves stands for change after 21 years of military rule. And throngs of Brazilians are backing on pledges becoming realities.

The 74-year-old Neves is overwhelmingly favoured over Paulo Salim Maluf, candidate for the government's Social Democratic Party in the Jan. 15 electoral college balloting. His victory would mark the first time the opposition has held control since the armed forces seized power in 1964.

Both candidates are civilians, a change from the five generals who have ruled Latin America's largest country for the past two decades.

In recent weeks, special interest groups have been meeting with Mr. Neves, outlining their hopes for change — the theme of the candidate's campaign. Successful rule will mean compromise, and the presidential hopeful appears ready to comply.

Human rights groups want laws eased, women's groups want equal treatment, film makers want relaxed censorship, unions want better working conditions and the drought-susceptible Northeast has been considered a national priority.

"Everyone wants his dream fulfilled," said David Fleischer, an author and political science pro-

fessor at the University of Brasilia. The slight and balding Neves has wooed artists, writers and actors, who suffered repression during the early years of military governments. In return, they have offered support by attending rallies. He recently held a campaign gathering aimed at people under 30 who have been denied the right to vote for president.

President Gen. Joao Figueiredo reinstated many democratic reforms, but he stopped short of allowing a return to direct presidential balloting.

The direct elections demonstrations, which attracted millions during the first half of 1984, were a show of force unseen since the military governments came to power. The mass movements died in April when an opposition-sponsored bid to reinstate ballot box voting went down in defeat.

Mr. Neves, during his recent campaign rallies, has revived some of that spirit. He has vowed to return this nation of 134 million people to complete democratic rule — including direct presidential elections.

Mr. Neves, candidate for the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party, appears certain to garner a majority of the 686 votes in the Electoral College because of turnouts from the Social Democrats, who together with the opposition form what is called the Dem-

ocratic Alliance.

The government party, in reality, holds a slim 5-seat majority in the Electoral College, made up of the Senate, House of Representatives and state representatives. But the government party rebels can easily assure the opposition victory.

In return for government party support, Mr. Neves' party agreed to put on the ballot as vice president Jose Sarney, formerly the head of the government's Social Democratic Party.

Mr. Neves is a veteran political, holding offices since 1932. He has served as congressman, senator, governor, justice minister, interior minister and prime minister during a brief try at a parliamentary system during the early 1960s.

"He is truly a consensus candidate," said Mr. Fleischer during a recent interview. "Tancredo (Neves) is acceptable to all — the left and the military — because he lives and breathes moderation."

Rio de Janeiro Lieutenant Governor Darcy Ribeiro, a Socialist, said: "The inauguration of Tancredo will bring dignity to Brazil's governmental institutions. And that is the fundamental basis for change that may take place under his administration."

Whoever takes office March 15 will have to deal with inflation of about 220 per cent, 40 per cent

combined underemployment, and unemployment, and a foreign debt put at more than \$100 billion.

Mr. Neves has said he is sceptical about the current government's hopes to reduce inflation to about 120 per cent next year, saying, "We do not plan to combat inflation with national hunger and misery."

He has agreed to follow austerity measures outlined by the International Monetary Fund to obtain bail-out loans, but said "We cannot accept rules by the IMF that cause recession, generate unemployment and, most importantly, attack our national sovereignty."

The Social Democrats reportedly are resigned to defeat and are trying to rebuild a shattered party.

"The error was that the Social Democratic Party didn't know how to stay united and did not succeed in identifying with popular desires, the spirit of change and the idea a transition was occurring in Brazilian society," the head of the government party in the House, Nelson Marchezan, said in a recent interview.

Mr. Fleischer said the military readily would accept Mr. Neves. "It's what you call exhaustion," he said. "The military wants to get back to the barracks, get the problems off their backs and get back to defending the nation."

Change at the top in Mauritania

By George Joffe

LONDON — On Dec. 12 Mauritania underwent another of its periodic upheavals when the president, Colonel Ould Haidallah, was replaced in a palace revolution by the army chief of staff, Colonel Mu'awiya Sid Ahmad Ould Taya. The coup, which took place while Col. Ould Haidallah was attending the Franco-African summit at Bujumbura in Burundi, does not, however, seem to indicate a radical alteration of political direction in Nouakchott. In an announcement two days after the coup, Nouakchott radio reported that Mauritania did not intend to change its support for the struggle of the Polisario Front in the Western Sahara and that it still considered the construction of Maghrebi unity under the umbrella of the treaty between Algeria, Tunisia and Mauritania to be a critical objective of the new regime.

Although there was no significant change in the ruling military committee — which has been in the real power centre in the country since June 1979 — there were changes in the cabinet. The critical positions of foreign affairs, justice, the interior and finances were retained in military hands, as were mines and transport, while fishing, which had been a particular interest of the outgoing president, was handed over to a new civilian politician. The new president, Ould Taya, has kept the premiership and the defence post for himself.

The motivations for the coup seem to have related in part to the critical domestic situation — a serious threat of widespread famine as Mauritania this year will only grow enough to satisfy about five per cent of the needs of its two million population — and in part to general dissatisfaction with the growing political independence of Col. Ould Haidallah. Mauritania has currently some of the most serious problems faced by any Sahel country, for the only source of foreign currency is its sales of iron ore from the Zouerate mines, while the rich fishing banks of the country's coasts are hardly exploited by domestic fishermen and have become, instead, a source of enormous profits to the international fishing community. The drought has destroyed the incipient nomad-based livestock industry, while the main source of food, the schemes along the Senegal river, are also severely affected.

Col. Ould Haidallah's response to these problems generated considerable resentment. It appears that the fishing industry, which he had identified as an area for personal intervention, has collapsed in inefficiency and corruption. Perhaps even more important was the question of the Western Sahara — the cause of the fall in July 1979 of the founder of Mauritania independence, Mokhtar Ould Dada. The successor regimes of Mr. Ould Saiek, Mr. Ould Bousseif, Mr. Ould Louly and Mr. Ould Haidallah have all sought to escape from the war, eventually signing a peace treaty with the Polisario Front and then retaining a neutral status. However, on Feb. 27, Col. Ould Haidallah, on his own initiative and without consultation with the MCNS, recognised the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic — a move that led to a split in the MCNS, just days before the outbreak of riots in southern Mauritania over economic issues.

The March riots led to the appointment of Mr. Ould Taya as army head. He had been prime minister since 1981 and had particularly distinguished himself during an abortive Moroccan-backed coup in March 1981, when he had been personally responsible for outwitting and neutralising dissident officers. The objectives of his new regime — to resolve the Sahara issue, revitalise the economy and create democratic institutions — remain the same, despite the coup. However, it is certain that these will now be pursued with more caution under the hand of a man who already has a reputation for courageous yet cautious firmness. Moroccan anxieties will be treated with more consideration. Algerian aspirations with more caution, while economic questions will dominate the concerns of Mauritania's new rulers in the short term, as problems of national integration will be in the longer perspective — Middle East International, London.

LETTERS

More than just smiling

To the Editor:

I WOULD like to refer to an incident on Jordan Television, Channel Six, Monday Jan. 7, 1985, when a most interesting medical programme was abruptly cut off in the middle of the speaker's sentence to make way for another programme.

It is a well established procedure for all TV stations to have a continuity announcer take charge of the smooth running of the transmission period. Our announcer seems to have failed even to bother to apologise for the abrupt termination of that programme, but with a fake attempted smile invited us to the next programme.

The question is what the duty of a programme continuity announcer is besides saying the regular cliché of good evening ladies and gentlemen, now we present... It certainly takes more than just smiling?

Sana' Faraj
Amman.

كلمة من السيد

Has educational technology served Arab ends?

By Husni Ayesh

THE writer is a well-known educationalist in Jordan. He writes commentaries and articles for Jordanian newspapers on education and other subjects. Mr. Ayesh contributed the article below to the U.S. monthly magazine Educational Technology.

The article is reprinted from the magazine's February, 1984 issue.

Introduction

THE ARAB World, like developing countries in general, faces a number of problems and challenges in relation to educational technology.

The fundamental problem is the integration of the requirements of quantity (universal education) with the requirements of quality instruction.

Problems vary in complexity and magnitude from state to state. Differences spring from variations in local political development, social and economic forces, population density and structural pressures, and available resources.

Latest and largest technology

In some Arab States, as in the Gulf and Saudi Arabia, the latest and largest technologies are most beautiful. The Arab Regional Centre for Educational Technology, situated in Kuwait, together with European and American businessmen, hold an annual exhibition for the latest and most sophisticated educational technologies.

The oil-rich states buy huge quantities of all kinds of equipment to boast that they are using their income to improve education at all levels. (The situation is changing somewhat now, due to recent drops in oil production and prices, along with the large financial commitments for the huge development and military projects already started.)

It is not unusual, though, to find that new orders of equipment, sometimes the same as the previous ones, are on their way to the stores of the Ministry of Education before the prior ones are unpacked and distributed to schools.

Upon close observation, little or no use of such technology has been achieved, except in Kuwait, which has a longer history of educational modernisation. Most of the sophisticated equipment in Saudi Arabia is found in university colleges for women, where male teachers are not-allowed to mix with female students. Most teachers and experts are mainly Jordanians, Palestinians, and Egyptians. Pupils in schools, spoiled by the sudden and easy access to wealth and paid to be in schools, do not feel that they have to learn.

They see their illiterate or little educated parents hire the best minds and hands to work for them.

Centralisation vs. decentralisation

Deep-rooted bureaucracy prevents teachers' initiative in selecting the best technology needed. In an area where one-man rule prevailed for thousands of years, people are conditioned to accept what comes from above. You cannot expect the opposite to happen in a short period of time. Grassroot participation is an exception. The teacher and the school always need prior permission and approval for their requests through a time-and-energy-consuming process. In a financially-centralised system, it is almost impossible for policies of decentralisation and reports of experts for more local participation in decisions to find way.

Tradition vs. modernisation

Arab people, as all peoples in developing countries, are in transition, or a state of flux. Although fascinated by modern technology, they are at the same time afraid of it. While they believe in its role in development, they are still afraid of the consequences. The Shah of Iran is an example of enforced modernisation without the psycho-social preparation of the masses to be able to absorb the shocks leaking from modern technology. It is the story of a society unprepared for the present, much less for the future.

This situation has led rulers and opinion-shapers to develop two, attractive slogans to calm anti-modernisation social and religious movements: Modernity must go hand in hand with originality, and science with faith/religion. These slogans have been reinforced and widely publicised after the political and military failures and frustrations of the Arab World. Many opinion-leaders claim that the above-mentioned outcomes are a natural result of the desertion of our tradition, religion, and morals. They add that we were the civilisation makers and leaders of the world in the Middle Ages. We taught the whole world the three R's. While they invite the masses



Mr. Ayesh

for a return to their roots, they (especially in the oil countries which finance and back the roots movements) run after the latest consumer technologies and gadgets, from remote-controlled cars in their houses to Rolls Royce cars in the garages. They are becoming technology-of-education wise and careful but consumer-gadgets stupid and hasty.

Additional administrative burdens

Modern technology requires that more time and effort be spent by the teacher than does talk-and-chalk, even if a technology aide (person) is available. Talk-and-chalk gives the teacher the feeling of looseness or freedom in a structured situation; set texts, set periods, days and weeks, public exams, etc. Talk-and-chalk is more attractive than the adoption of modern technology, which puts the teacher in an additionally structured situation.

In developed countries such as the USA and Europe, the school situation is relatively flexible and the teacher has some freedom of choice. Thus, he or she does not object to the creation of a structured situation, which adoption of modern technology necessitates.

A figure emerges in the background

Modern technology, which originates, emerges out of its own background. There is harmony or a line of continuity and a feeling of growth in its people. Dramatic technological achievements do not upset the people or look very strange, but still there are certain segments of the population in developed society who are upset. Their rulers and leaders are doing everything possible to prepare people for change to absorb the future shock ahead of time. This is not the case in the Arab World. We are transferring the most sophisticated technologies in many

fields directly to a strange background without modification of the technology to fit our background, or our background to accept the new technology. Therefore, contrast, not harmony, exists and grows, and anti-Westernisation movements find their way against such a technology.

Status of teachers

The teaching profession in the Arab World occupied a moderately high status until 1973. In that year, oil prices were doubled or tripled. Huge oil revenues in nine Arab States directly affected the profession in those states, and indirectly, the profession in non-oil producing countries. Spectacular development projects and periodic, comprehensive development plans dramatically changed the relative status of all professions and occupations. The political upheavals and dangers from within and from without the area led to the allocation of income to military personnel and equipment. Demand for medical and engineering professions, and technicians and skilled labour rocketed.

Amid processes interacting this new structure, the teaching profession's status dropped severely. Although teachers gained highly in qualifications, they lost comparatively in terms of income. This led to low morale, lack of commitment, and negativism in attitude towards schools and the profession. Accordingly, the best secondary school graduates do not join the teaching profession/career, and the best teachers leave the profession once the chance for a better job is available. This reflected poorly on the quality of education. Schools seemed to be retreating, and pupils' performance seemed to be declining. Some educationists and administrators looked at technology to compensate for this loss, but technology does not work in a vacuum.

Parents, astonished at the carelessness of teachers, turned to private schools, or to well-known teachers to teach their children privately in their homes. Some teachers received three to four times their income from private teaching. The criterion for good performance is the average mark the student receives on the public exams. The average decides his or her future career, since those with high averages are prescribed to colleges of medicine and engineering, and those with low averages to colleges of letters and education.

In oil-producing countries, there are two criteria for joining

different colleges in the university; nationals can join almost any college if they just pass the public exam, while non-nationals have to get very high averages to be admitted. They do get them, but there are not enough places in the universities, since only five per cent of the seats are allocated for them.

This unpleasant state of educational quality led the minister of education in Jordan, a leading country in education in quantity and quality and whose main export is manpower, to declare that the 1980 decade will be dedicated to quality.

Finally, in many of the Arab States, all high professions, such as medicine and engineering, as well as low-rank professions, have unions and associations—except teachers. Teachers are not allowed, for undisclosed political reasons, to form unions and/or associations. This attitude deprives teachers of social recognition and deep involvement in the education processes. Where teachers' unions exist, they are under the strict control of the ministries of education.

Public examinations

Public examinations, an inheritance of the British and French colonial era and of social classification systems, divert all efforts of the school towards one central aim: success of students in public examinations, since success, especially at the end of secondary education, shapes the future of higher education and the careers of the students.

Teachers and students concentrate on facts and their memorisation, neglecting thinking skills, technical skills, and systematic understanding because examinations are paper-and-pencil. This public-exam-controlled education has made private teaching in students' homes flourish.

Therefore, a teacher who wishes to employ available technology (even laboratories of physics, biology, and chemistry) finds his or her wish irrelevant and wastes the time which he or she has to dedicate to the completion of the pre-set curriculum.

Educational technology challenges

The previously-mentioned problems create certain challenges that the Arab World has to face: otherwise, problems will grow and be more complicated.

A number of questions have to be answered: —How can the teacher help his or her students to collect, organise, keep, retrieve, and generate information?

—How can teachers control modern technology for better education?

—How can the teacher select the appropriate technology which best suits the teaching/learning process and stage of development from among the many technologies competing almost daily for attention and attraction?

—What should be done to make teachers accept willingly the additional burdens technology creates?

—What should be done to install integration between hardware, software, and skinware? In addition, we have two major problems areas:

Modernity vs. originality: Since sensitivity against foreign models, civilisation, and technology is growing among a large sector of society, what will be the best strategy towards educational technology? Is it better to design and produce our own techniques and technologies, or to modify the foreign ones to fit our background, since it is not feasible to modify the background to fit the foreign techniques and technologies? Can we avoid the expansion of the technology gap? Can we avoid the reinvention of the wheel?

Recognition of the teaching profession: Will the Arab World place the teaching profession in a higher rank socially and economically and recognise the rights of teachers to participate in the decision-making process and to organise themselves in unions?

This is a democratic challenge in a world oriented towards dictatorship and a fear of masses turning into mobs (teachers and their students) when political excitement rises. Thus, while leaders want an educated populace, the fact is that they are fearful of the results of education. It is a dilemma.

Conclusion

The Arab World is undergoing changes in all walks of life. Wealth caused by oil revenues is accelerating this change, but unevenly between sectors of economy and society and between states.

The Arab World is educationally confused. Inputs are attacking it or sought from all directions without proper filtering. It is hoped by the year 2000 the education system will bridge the gap between quantity and quality. This will depend in fact upon using the appropriate technology properly.

Finally, the Arab World has to understand that school is not built on the ground of equipment, as much as on teachers. Therefore, we expect and look for the recognition that the teaching profession deserves.

Randa Habibi's Corner

Training for darker days?

ARMS STRETCHED, eyes blinking, hands groping their way, staggering in dark corridors, eyes bulging to scrutinise in the gloom... this is from now on the situation of employees in government departments and their visitors.

Because an energy rationalisation campaign has started, most of the government offices are in total darkness. I say most of the offices because the more modern buildings can benefit from the sunlight. Others, like some offices of the Ministry of Education, look like a black hole. There, the employees try to find their way by exhausting their memory, sniffing and agility.

Their visitors? For them it is like walking into a labyrinth. The same goes for the Ministry of Social Development. But, I have to say, the good Lord made things right after the government decision by offering us a compassionate sun in the midst of January — making the lack of heating more tolerable.

On the other hand, in all government offices, thermometers have been recently installed to allow the control of temperature according to the new instructions.

Fourteen degrees and above... the heat is shut off. 13.99 degrees and below, the department's boiler is on. But let us not complain after all. The situation is not really that terrible. An official was laughingly telling me the other day that the dim light added "a romantic touch" to the government offices.

Whether the turnout of official employees has been reduced due to this darkness, that is another story. But allow me to laugh this time, for we all know the productivity of our fellow employees...

So, as the old saying goes, "Everything is for the best in the best of worlds." But I was about to forget to ask who can tell me why, as long as we are applying a "save the energy" campaign, was it that the other day the street stretching from the Holiday Inn to the Third Circle was lit at noon...

'Qat' seen as part of traditional Yemen

By Aly Mahmoud
Associated Press

SANA'A — Their cheeks bulging with balls of thick green leaves, North Yemenis of all social shades blissfully chew away on what they call their "national narcotic."

Most adults spend about three hours a day, and a sizeable portion of their incomes, chewing Qat leaves, a mild amphetamine.

Every afternoon, government ministers, traffic policemen, peasants and paupers take formal breaks from their work for what they call "stuffed" sessions.

The sessions are a time-honoured social habit. Men and women get together in separate parties to chew and listen to ballads and lyrics in an atmosphere of semi-insomnia.

"Let's go stuff," one telex operator invited a Western journalist during a recent Islamic foreign ministers conference, here. "We will introduce you to our bliss, acquaint you with our national insomnia."

Qat is also chewed in South Yemen, Ethiopia and Somalia, but to lesser extents. It is banned in Saudi Arabia.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh conceded that Qat is a national problem that required a "prudent" remedy.

"Qat chewing is a social phenomenon among our people," President Saleh said in an interview. "We believe we can dispense this by broadening the scope of businesses, spreading sports and social and cultural clubs throughout the country."

Arab and Western diplomatic sources said the government has been reluctant to ban Qat or even restrict its cultivation and sale.

One senior government official cautioned against trying to coerce people to abandon Qat.

"Qat is more of a social problem than an economic one," said the official, who spoke on condition he not be identified.

"I'm one of those (officials) who always argue against compulsion on the Qat issue. I think the ban should be an evolutionary process and never a revolutionary one. The consequences of compulsion can be really perturbing."

Shortly before noon every day, Yemenis crowd the Old Souk, or marketplace, and haggle over prices of various brands of the leaves, sold in bundles wrapped in polyethylene. The leaves, chewed raw, are Yemen's biggest business. Officials like to stress the "benefits" of Qat, often insisting it is not a narcotic. Qat chewing can take a few hours before its stimulating effect becomes felt.

Leonyne Price ends her opera career

By Mary Campbell
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The soprano Leonyne Price, the first black American singer to achieve superstar status in opera, bid farewell to her opera career with a glowing performance in "Aida," the role many critics consider her greatest.

Her finale last Thursday, her 193rd performance at the Metropolitan Opera, came 24 years to the month after her debut there at the age of 33.

Price, 57, acclaimed as one of the century's leading Verdi sopranos, will continue to perform concerts and recitals, a practice followed by many opera singers, enabling them to choose songs best suited to their voices.

It was Price's fourth performance this season in the title role of Verdi's opera, the story of the daughter of the king of Ethiopia held captive in Egypt. The opera, directed by James McCracken, Florence Cossotto, Simon Estes and John McCurdy, was televised in the United States by the Public Broadcasting Service. Tickets for the performance were sold out by mid-November.

After Price's aria in Act III "O, Patria Mia," which begins, "Oh, my country, I shall never see you again," the audience stopped the opera with a four-minute ovation.

Though Price remained in character, her lips trembled and she bowed her head. When she raised it, her eyes were glistening.

Price had intended to announce her retirement on television at a prerecorded intermission interview. But newspaper stories appearing before the first of the four Met "Aidas," revealed that it would be her last opera role, and Price decided against the intermission announcement.

She will continue to give concerts and has many bookings for the next three years.

Price studied at the Juilliard School in New York and received her first critical notices in the role of Bess in a 1952 New York production of Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess." She sang "Tosca" on NBC-TV in 1954 and made her debut with the San Francisco



Leonyne Price at her final opera performance

Opera in 1957 and the Vienna State Opera in 1958.

When she first appeared at the Met, on Jan. 27, 1961, as Leonora in Verdi's "Il Trovatore," she received a 40-minute ovation, one of the longest in the house in the last 25 years.

Price, who has lived in New York's Greenwich Village for 30 years, has appeared in operas by other composers, including Mozart, Puccini and Richard Strauss, but she always won her highest acclaim as a Verdi soprano. It was her "Aida" that made her an international star, when she sang the role in leading European opera houses in the 1960s and became a protégée of the conductor Herbert von Karajan.

She also created the role of Cleopatra in Samuel Barber's "Antony and Cleopatra" for the opening performance in the new Metropolitan Opera House at Lincoln Centre in 1966. She will next appear at the Met in recital, with James Levine as accompanist, on March 24.

"I'm trying to exhibit good taste," she said of her farewell. "I prefer to leave standing up, like a well-mannered guest at a party." — International Herald Tribune.

Long way through 'Swan Lake's' troubled waters

By David Stevens

PARIS — Hardly any ballet in the repertory can challenge the indelible popularity of "Swan Lake," not only for the atmosphere, colour and variety of Tchaikovsky's score, but for the universal appeal of its tragic story of lovers destroyed by outside forces, however confused it may be in the telling.

Yet hardly any ballet of consequence has taken such a long time to achieve that popularity throughout the dance world, or has had its libretto so incessantly rewritten or otherwise tampered with, or its score so thoroughly cut, added to, shifted around and generally mutilated.

As a result, although almost every major production of "Swan Lake" traces its ancestry to the celebrated 1895 staging by Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov in St. Petersburg, no two productions are absolutely identical and some are downright eccentric as choreographers strive to clarify the story or give particular significance to the fairy tale.

Thus, Rudolf Nureyev's new choreography and mise en scene for the Paris Opera has reopened the debate for the umpteenth time, with reactions ranging from qualified approval to outrage. It is Nureyev's second go at "Swan Lake" — he first did it 20 years ago for the Vienna State Opera — so he has had plenty of time to think about it. But one of the particular problems in Paris is that it replaces one of the most important postwar productions of the work, one that has been in the Paris repertory for almost a quarter-century and the only one up to now that the Opera's ballet troupe has ever had.

"Swan Lake," the composer's first ballet, was commissioned from Tchaikovsky by the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow in 1875 and produced there in 1877 in choreography by one Julius Reisinger, the theatre's ballet master, whose competence and imagination for the job at hand appear to have been slight or nonexistent. Furthermore the conductor had never before been confronted by a score that was so complicated. For a variety of reasons, in the course

of performances about a third of Tchaikovsky's score was cut and replaced by the music of others. A revival in 1880 choreographed by Joseph Hansen, who succeeded Reisinger as ballet master, fared no better. In addition, the public was hardly used to ballets of such dramatic content, let alone to such an ambitious score. The result was no success, but not a disaster either, and the Moscow production ran until its sets disintegrated.

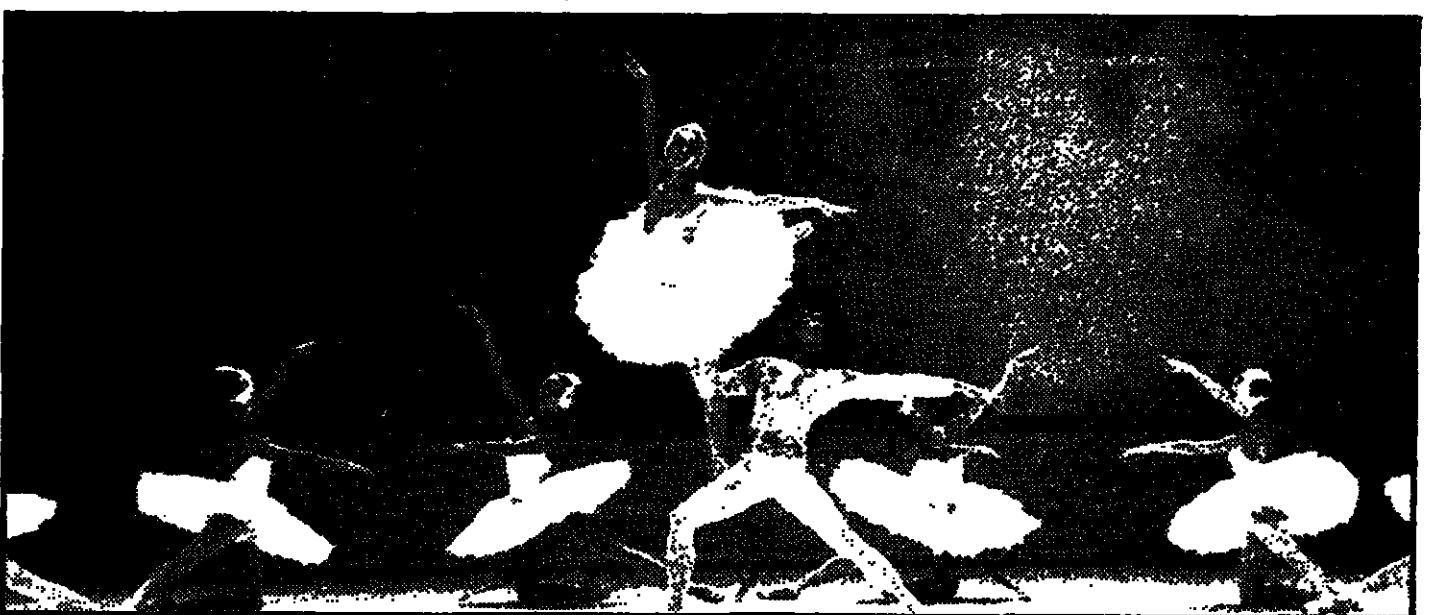
When Tchaikovsky died in 1893, only this production had been staged, and he died understandingly believing that the score was not a success.

Radical changes

But Petipa, at the Maryinsky in St. Petersburg, with the later successes of "Sleeping Beauty" and "Nutcracker" behind him, and prodded by Ivan Vsevolozhsky, director of the Imperial Theatres, proved otherwise. The composer's brother Modest was persuaded to revise the complicated original libretto. Some of the changes were helpful, or at least harmless. He eliminated Odette's wicked stepmother and protective grandfather and correspondingly strengthened the role of the evil genius, Rothbart. However he also changed the tragic ending, in which Odette and Prince Siegfried are engulfed by the overflowing waters of the lake, into a romantic apotheosis.

Furthermore, the original order of Tchaikovsky's score was not respected, radical cuts were made and other music by Tchaikovsky was introduced, the chief villain of this being the composer-conductor Riccardo Drigo.

No matter. Petipa laid out the broad lines of the staging and entrusted the choreography of Acts 2 and 4, the "white" acts, to his assistant Ivanov, while doing himself Acts 1 and 3, with their national and character dances. The production was launched on its road to overwhelming popularity, and Ivanov's Act 2 in particular has almost achieved the status of an untouchable masterpiece, one that has a life of its own in companies who lack the desire or the resources to produce the full work.



Elizabeth Platel and Charles Jude in Nureyev's Paris 'Swan Lake'

But the road to worldwide popularity was not smooth. "Diaghilev sought to introduce 'Swan Lake' to the western Europe in his 1911 London season, in a version that eliminated Act 1 and compressed the remainder into two acts. But he was a victim of his own success in introducing modern works and the 'new art' of Mikhail Fokine, and this revival was seen as uninteresting and the work as old-fashioned, even though Nijinsky danced the prince in three performances. Diaghilev, no slouch at judging public taste, was in this case only a few decades in advance of the post-World War II wave of enthusiasm for the Romantic ballet repertory.

It was not until 1934 that the first complete production of the Petipa-Ivanov version was given in the West, mounted for the Vic-Wells Ballet in London by Nicholas Sergeyev, a former ballet master of the Maryinsky who fled Russia during the Revolution with his annotated choreographies. This was the basis for all the later productions by the Sadler's Wells company, today's Royal Ballet, as well as by numerous other companies in the West.

Despite the fact that the Paris Opera Ballet is one of companies in the world best endowed to handle major works with large sup-

porting forces, it was not until 1960 that "Swan Lake" entered its repertory.

In 1953, Vladimir Bourmeister, ballet master of the Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Music Theatre in Moscow, staged an important revival of the work, significant in that it was the first to return to the original order of Tchaikovsky's score and in the special attention that Bourmeister — who was, after all, flying under Stanislavsky's flag — gave to the dramatic content. He retained the Ivanov Act 2, however, and he was in no position to return to the original tragic ending. With the advent of socialist realism and the requirement for "positive" heroes, Soviet endings to "Swan Lake" have been happy ones, sometimes with Siegfried defeating Rothbart in hand-to-hand combat.

When the Bourmeister production toured in the West in 1956 it created a considerable stir, one result being that he repeated the production for the Paris Opera. This version — revived frequently in different Paris sites, such as the courtyard of the Louvre and the Palais des Congresses, and with changes of decor — has been the Paris production until Nureyev introduced his new version last month.

Nureyev also greatly enhances the role of traditional mime in the middle two acts, although the opening act has become largely a succession of seemingly un-motivated dances.

The most welcome change is a return to a semblance of a tragic ending. Dream or no dream, this version is a metaphor for an impossible love. There is no overflowing of the lake, but Rothbart again sweeps up Odette — as in the opening scene — and they rise beyond the reach of the prince,

who collapses.

This new "Swan Lake" has solid assets in the sets of Ezio Frigerio and the costumes of the Franca Squarapino. Frigerio has devised a vast, square-cornered space in Victorian Gothic style with a back wall that slides apart to reveal watery scenes that vaguely evoke Monet, while Squarapino has created Italian Renaissance costumes in subdued hues. Despite the mixture of styles — after all, one can do anything in a dream — the result is harmonious and appealing.

Finally, the return of "Swan Lake" to the company's repertory is welcome for the health of the company. The double role of Odette-Odile is one of the most testing in the repertory, the Paris troupe has a lot of young ballerinas who can only benefit from coming to grips with it. In the first casts, Elisabeth Platel and Claude de Vulpian displayed solid technique but not yet a great deal of character, and much the same could be said for the attractive prince of Charles Jude. Patrice Bart made the most of his double role as the tutor and Rothbart, giving a brilliant account of his new, close-to-the-ground Act 3 variation — International Herald Tribune.

Jarryd prevents McEnroe-Sundstrom clash in Grand Prix Masters tennis

NEW YORK (R) — The projected and much anticipated rematch from last month's Davis Cup final between American John McEnroe and Henrik Sundstrom of Sweden will not, after all, take place at this week's Grand Prix Masters Tennis Championship.

Sundstrom's compatriot Anders Jarryd scotched that possibility in the first round by upsetting Sundstrom 6-4, 6-1 Tuesday night in the first match of the \$400,000, 12-man event at Madison Square Garden.

Sundstrom had beaten McEnroe in straight sets in the opening match of the Davis Cup final in Gothenburg, Sweden, last month, when Sweden went on to win the cup, and the tennis world was agog at the possibility of a return battle this week.

But Sundstrom looked as though he was still suffering from a stomach muscle injury which

hampered his serving during last week's Young Masters event in Birmingham as Jarryd beat him to earn the quarter-final match with McEnroe.

In Tuesday night's other match, Johan Kriek of the United States, who was born in South Africa, beat 17-year-old American Aaron Krickstein 7-5, 6-3 and will meet fourth-seeded Mats Wilander in the last eight on Thursday.

In Wednesday night's two first round matches, another member of the 'Swedish connection', Joakim Nystrom, meets American Vitas Gerulaitis while Tomas

Smid of Czechoslovakia plays American Eliot Teltscher.

McEnroe, Wilander and the second and third seeds, American Jimmy Connors and Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia, all had first round byes.

Sundstrom's victory over McEnroe was on clay, his best surface, and he appeared uncomfortable on the medium-fast synthetic surface here.

He seemed frustrated by his inability to get his first serves in, he served four double faults and committed frequent errors with his usually lethal forehand.

Jarryd, in contrast, was a picture of consistency on his groundstrokes and his serve was also more effective. From 4-3 down in the opening set, Jarryd won nine out of 10 games as Sundstrom went to pieces.

Krickstein, at 17 the youngest player ever to qualify for the Masters, only got in because Andres Gomez of Ecuador withdrew with

a shoulder injury.

Still, he acquitted himself well, coming back from 5-3 down in the opening set and fighting off a set point to square the set at 5-5 before Kriek went on to win it.

The winner of the event on Sunday will earn \$100,000.

Injured runner aims for '88 Olympics

AUCKLAND (R) — American marathon runner Jane Wenzel is determined to run at the 1988 Seoul Olympics despite being seriously injured in a car accident near here recently.

Wenzel, 29, a trialist for last year's U.S. Olympic team, broke her neck in three places when a car in which she was travelling went out of control on a gravel road and rolled.

Liverpool pays big transfer fee for teenage striker Wayne

LONDON (R) — European Cup holders Liverpool surprised British soccer Tuesday when they paid a transfer fee of £250,000 (\$285,000) to sign striker Wayne Harrison, 17, from second division Oldham Athletic.

Harrison, who will not be 18 until November, had played only four games for Oldham's first

team, scoring two goals. But he had scored 33 times for the Lancashire Club's youth and reserve teams.

The fee paid is a record for a player of his age in British soccer and takes Liverpool's spending to more than £1.6 million (\$1.8 million) in the last eight months.

Olympic pole vault champion to miss indoor athletic games

PARIS (R) — Olympic pole vault champion Pierre Quinon of France will not compete in the World Indoor Games here next week because of a knee injury, his coach said Monday.

He has pulled out because of persistent ligament pain in his right knee, coach Jean-Claude Perrin said.

Quinon's confrontation with Sergei Bubka of the Soviet Union was to have been one of the highlights of the January 18-19 games.

Kasparov opens game 40

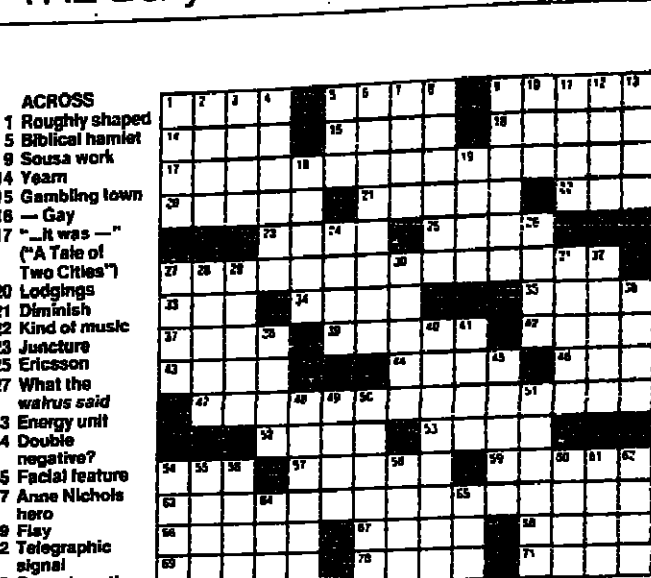
MOSCOW (R) — Challenger Garry Kasparov kept up a war of nerves in game 40 of the world chess title match Wednesday, repeating the opening used by white in the last two games.

But defending champion Anatoly Karpov broke the pattern on move 13. After half an hour's thought, he chose a new variation, sidestepping any improvements the Kasparov camp might have worked out over the past week.

Kasparov chose the opening which put pressure on the champion in game 38 and was then used against him by Karpov in the following game.

Karpov, who leads 5-1 in the first-to-six-wins match, swapped a warm and energetic handshake with his young opponent before play began.

THE Daily Crossword By S.E. Wilkinson



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ACROSS
1 Roughly shaped
5 Biblical hamlet
9 Sousa work
14 Year
15 Gambling town
18 — Gay
17 "It was..."
20 Lodgings
21 Diminish
22 Kind of music
23 Juncture
25 Ericsson
27 What the walrus said
33 Energy unit
34 Double negative?
35 Facial feature
37 Anne Nichols here
39 Play
42 Telegraphic signal
43 Commiseration
44 Slicker
46 Bovine bellow
47 "Procrustean" is
52 He discovered the Cape of Good Hope
53 Cross inscription
54 Toothed tool
57 Shellfish
58 Important age
59 "Remember..." (Franklin)
60 Houston player
61 Proletariat
65 Resist
66 Arose
70 Be without
71 Kismet

DOWN
1 Biblical verb
2 Aural twin
3 Kindle
4 Most recent
5 Kind of verb: absc.
6 Official robe
7 Square pillar
8 Excitement
9 System of measurement
10 Black bird
11 Frolic
12 Nile femme fatale
13 Fastener
18 City liquid
19 Charges
24 Prophetic book
26 Place to keep sheep
27 Ambush
28 Matter of course
29 Wharton
30 Percheron
31 Fla. beach
32 Downs or salts
36 Item on the roof
38 Scrutinized
40 Soundless
41 Proletariat
45 Zimbalist
48 Apex
49 Name in spydom
50 "What a piece of work..." (Hamlet)
51 Warning
54 Hart
55 Chan's exclamation
56 Current power
58 As it —
60 Draft status
61 Bit of change
62 Stevenson character
64 College board mem.
65 A Chaplin

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مركز المدينة

Michelin axes 2,600 jobs

LONDON (R) — French tyre maker Michelin said Tuesday it was cutting 2,600 jobs in its British operations in an effort to streamline production and end a three-year run of losses.

All but 200 of the job losses will be at the company's main British factory in the Midlands city of Stoke-on-Trent where tyre production is to be run down in favour of newer plants in Scotland, Northern Ireland and northwest England.

Michelin currently employs 11,000 people in Britain. Like other West European tyre makers, it has been hit in recent years by the advent of long-running radical tyres and by competition from Eastern Europe and the Far East.

The head of the company's British operations, Mr. Thomas Ferguson, said losses in Britain totalled £70 million (\$81 million) in the two-and-a-half years to last June, and he expected further losses for the second half of last year.

"It is tragic that such large-scale job losses have become an economic necessity, but if we had not reached this decision then a further 3,300 jobs at Stoke and 3,000 elsewhere in the group would clearly have been at risk," Mr. Ferguson said.

China stresses nuclear shift to civilian needs

PEKING (R) — China's nuclear industry must shift emphasis from military to civilian needs to help speed development of the nation's budding atomic power network, according to a senior minister.

Vice Premier Li Peng told industry leaders at a Peking conference their main task was to provide badly-needed equipment and products for the extensive power station programme, the China Daily reported Wednesday.

Another report, by the New China News Agency, said Mr. Li added that while there had been major progress in developing both nuclear weapons and civilian products, he hoped they would now apply their technology even more widely to civilian industry.

China must produce its own fuel for its nuclear plants, and develop a home-made waste disposal system, Mr. Li said.

Peking has announced ambitious plans to produce at least 10,000 megawatts of nuclear power by the end of the century. Foreign industry sources have speculated that this could mean contracts to overseas firms of between \$10 and \$20 billion.

Sudan may build refineries while export pipeline halted

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan is remained committed to the export pipeline, "the delay has made it that we began to look at other options... we are now considering building mini-refineries in various locations... to meet some of our consumption obligations."

Sudan faces chronic fuel shortages through difficulty in obtaining the hard currency needed for fuel imports.

"We can't just cross our hands and wait," Mr. Tuhami added.

He said between three and six refineries with capacities ranging between 5,000 and 10,000 barrels per day were being considered. Crude oil, he said, could come from smaller fields in Darfur province in western Sudan.

Those fields, also discovered by Chevron, had previously been thought not worth developing.

Mr. Tuhami declined to elaborate on recent visits to Sudan by Saudi businessman Mr. Adnan Khashoggi, whose Segma Company owns 50 per cent of the recently established National Oil Company.

Mr. Tuhami said though Sudan

USSR-U.S. start trade talks

MOSCOW (R) — A high-level U.S. delegation began talks Tuesday with Soviet foreign trade ministry officials in a fresh sign of the superpowers' willingness to use trade as a way of improving their strained relations.

Undersecretary for commerce Mr. Lionel Olmer heads the U.S. delegation at three days of talks with Soviet Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Vladimir Sushkov, the first contract at such a senior level since 1978.

U.S. Commerce Department officials have made clear they believe there is substantial scope for an increase in the volume of trade between the superpowers within President Reagan's limits for sales of goods with military potential.

Soviet imports from the United States jumped significantly in the first nine months of last year after dropping because of the White

House restrictions on trade and the general deterioration in U.S.-Soviet relations in 1983.

Soviet imports from the U.S. in January to September 1984 reached 1.7 billion roubles (about \$2 billion), according to Soviet figures, an increase of 70 per cent, but still below the levels of the late 1970's.

Soviet officials say Mr. Reagan's trade restrictions, designed to halt the flow to Moscow of high technology and anything which might have military applications, are an unnecessary barrier to improved relations and only benefit U.S. companies' foreign rivals.

The United States has fallen from second to seventh place in overall trade turnover with the Soviet Union over the past six years.

A report Tuesday by the official Soviet news agency TASS described this as a level "far behind potential", adding that what it called a virtual stagnation in bilateral trade had occurred "not through the fault of the Soviet Union".

Many of the technological contracts which might have been awarded to American firms have gone to West German and Japanese companies as they outstripped the U.S. in trade with Moscow.

The Soviet Union has traditionally had a trade deficit with Washington. American imports from the Soviet Union last year were worth about \$500 million, according to U.S. trade figures.

Mr. Olmer said prior to the talks one of the issues he wanted to raise with the Soviet ministry was an easing of travel and employment restrictions on U.S. and other foreign businessmen resident in Moscow.

changes in key job figures were minor last month.

A number of healthy developments were also visible despite the increase in the overall jobless rate.

There were 341,000 jobs added to the economy in December and the number of employed Americans stood at a record 106.3 million.

The number of people without jobs increased by 49,000 to 8.2 million.

The Labour Department report contained annual revisions, including one for November, for which the jobless rate was originally given as 7.2 per cent.

It also furnishes the first information on how the economy performed last month, and implies that growth remained moderate.

Detailed statistics showed that

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Dollar keeps up pressure, markets look for signals

LONDON (R) — The dollar kept up its pressure on world currencies Wednesday, with the mark "fixed" nearly three pfennigs down on Tuesday, sterling shaky and the Bank of Japan openly stating it will maintain a policy of intervening as necessary to aid the yen.

Sterling briefly sank to \$1.1370 in London, equalling the record low seen in the Far East overnight, and its trade-weighted index against a basket of currencies (1975 base 100) opened the day at its worst-ever level of 72.2.

But London money market rates edged upwards, renewing speculation of a general increase in bank lending rates due to the pound's weakness despite Tuesday's unexpected news of a decline in the British money supply in December.

The speculation helped sterling to crawl back above \$1.14, where it stayed throughout the morning session.

In Frankfurt, the dollar opened at around 3.17 marks and hovered close to that level until the daily fixing at 3.1672 marks compared with Tuesday's 3.1385.

Dealers nervously sought signs of Bundesbank intervention, but detected none either at the fix or in the open market.

The central bank has so far failed to intervene at all this year.

Although I do not think the weakness of the yen will last long... we will continue the policy of intervening in the markets when necessary," he said.

Mr. Sumitani, who is due to meet U.S. Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker in Washington next week, also discouraged speculation of a cut in the Japanese discount rate, currently five per cent, saying: "We would never do anything on our

own which could result in the weakening of the yen."

In London, the yen moved in a narrow range just below 255 to the dollar. The Swiss and French francs, also pushed down to record lows in recent days, were also nearly static, trading quietly at around 265 and 9.70 to the dollar respectively.

Encouraging domestic economic signs kept stock market indices near recent highs in several European centres including London, Frankfurt and Zurich, but foreign exchange markets appeared content to await the emergence of a clear lead.

New York has made the movements in the past two days and it has only cost us money," said one dealer in Frankfurt.

Meanwhile, in New York the stock market fell slightly higher than second- and third-hand but the week tally was damaged by concern that an unpopular tax reform programme may be given new life.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 1.13 to 1197.70, but analysts said the announcement of Treasury Secretary Donald Regan's White House chief of staff and the appointment of a new chief of staff Mr. James Baker to replace Mr. Regan at Treasury reduced the already low interest in stocks.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Early handling of financial affairs is wise and later do not take on any more obligations than you can handle easily.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Get started on your personal plans very early since later conditions are apt to be difficult. Postpone appointments until later.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Plan the day wisely and carry through though you may encounter distractions later. Handle the tasks that will give you more free time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Look to a good friend for the assistance you need in the morning since you find acquaintances are not reliable.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get outside tasks handled in the morning, and don't get upset later if a higher-up upbraids you without cause.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You get an idea early but later see the flaws in it, so put it aside for awhile and pick it up another day.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Try to please your mate in the morning, and then handle your duties efficiently and conscientiously.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Have long talks with a partner so that the relationship is upgraded and greater benefits are possible in the future.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will have a fine personality and quick mind and will sparkle at studies in school, and should have a fine education; that can be the biggest asset during the lifetime. Your goal-minded progeny will pick the right path and stay on it until the dreams become a reality.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JAN. 11, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today... tonight are beneficial for considering what will aid your work in a detailed fashion, and then to get busy and organize your duties as they are easily and efficiently completed.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Whatever your line of work may be, it can be handled very efficiently today. Be very cooperative with fellow workers.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You find it easy to make appointments with congenials for the social and recreational activities that most please you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Study your property well and see what it really needs in order to make it more functional and comfortable.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Fine day to sit down with associates and work out new arrangements with them and improve routines.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Study your practical affairs wisely and know what should be done to enhance them. Go to a monetary expert for any advice you may need.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Know what it is you really want in your personal existence and make plans to gain such. Enjoy any spare time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get a plan working that can bring you the benefits you desire and be more active. Today's labors could bring excellent results.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Go over your list of friends and pick out the ones who can most assist you in both business and personal affairs.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You can make a fine impression on bigwigs today if you show you are an expert at your work.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Get into those activities that fascinate you and make the future brighter. Get in touch with clever and wise individuals.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Some particular thought for one you like very much can bring excellent results. Your gains should be great.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Get together with those whom you want in your life in the days ahead and state your aims. Get into public work. Be active.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will know the right words to say at the right time and should have the benefit of a good education to make the most of this fine trait. One who will be precise in all things and expect others to be the same, so early teach to make allowances for those who are not similarly endowed.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Stock prices again closed firmer in moderate trading in continued reaction to the better than expected U.K. money supply figures, dealers said. At 1530 GMT, the FTSE 100 share had risen to a new high of 1257.1, up 13.6 from Tuesday night's close.

Operators noted a shortage of stock and strong institutional buying interest. Among the leading constituents of the F.T. 30 share index, ICI was 12p higher at 750 but Associated Dairies shed a net 10p at 146 after disappointing interim figures.

Government bonds recovered early falls to show gains of some ½ point, while golds were off the lows in places.

Government bonds recovered in thin buying interest and also on news the Bank of England is offering a repurchase facility of up to £2 billion to help ease tight liquidity pressures in the money market. Dealers said the bank's move and Tuesday's money supply data eased worries over higher bank base rates.

Earlier, the shares of P and O and sterling guarantee were suspended at 325p and 74p respectively, while merger talks between the companies are held.

Oil shares recovered early falls with B.P. unchanged at 493p after 486 this morning. Banks showed gains stretching to 15p with Natwest up that amount at 612p.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.1402/12	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3201/04	Canadian dollars
	3.1670/80	West German marks
	3.5765/80	Dutch guilders
	2.6485/95	Swiss francs
	63.38/42	Belgian francs
	9.6925/75	French francs
	1942.0/4.0	Italian lire
	254.92/255.02	Japanese yen
	9.0525/0625	Swedish crowns
	9.1525/1625	Norwegian crowns
	11.3300/3400	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	298.40/298.90	U.S. dollars

Peanuts



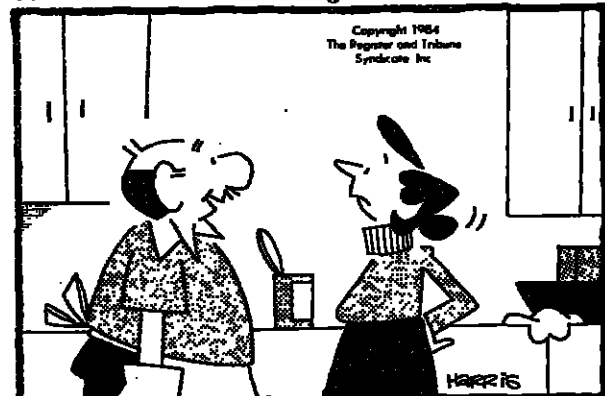
Mutt 'n' Jeff



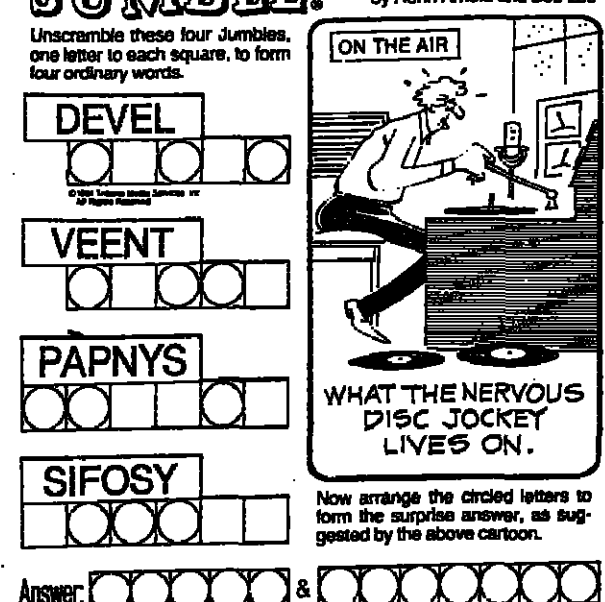
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE



Yesterday's Jumbles: BATON AGILE ENJOIN HITTER
Answer: What to do in order to have soft white hands—NOTHING

Kampuchean guerrillas planning counter-attack after losing base

ARANYAPRATHET, Thailand (R) — Kampuchean guerrillas are regrouping for a counter-attack on their Ampil base, captured by Vietnamese troops Tuesday after hand-to-hand fighting, a Thai military spokesman said Wednesday.

The key base of the Khmer Peoples National Liberation Front (KPNLF) just across Thailand's eastern border fell after 36 hours of almost continuous tank-led Vietnamese ground assaults and artillery and mortar barrages.

Col. Chetha Thanjarat, deputy commander of the Thai Eastern Border Command, told reporters near the border town of Aranyaprathet that the guerrilla fighting force was intact and preparing counter-attacks on Ampil.

He estimated KPNLF casualties at Ampil at 20 dead and 50 wounded. He said casualties were low because the guerrillas decided Tuesday morning to melt away.

International Red Cross officials said Ampil's defenders had honeycombed the base with fortified bunkers and trenches which had helped protect them from the Vietnamese onslaught.

About 23,000 civilians at the base fled into Thailand last Friday in anticipation of the attack.

Vietnamese casualties nor the number of troops occupying

Ampil were not known.

Col. Chetha said guerrillas from Nong Chan and Nong Samet, two KPNLF bases hit earlier by the Vietnamese during their annual dry season offensive, were trying to link up with Ampil units to help in a counter-attack.

He said the Vietnamese would probably try to hold Ampil, about 70 kilometres northeast of Aranyaprathet, for some time and their presence "put a lot of pressure on Thailand."

A Thai jet fighter was shot down five kilometres inside Thailand Tuesday while taking part in an drive to repel Vietnamese troops who crossed the border north of Ampil, the military said. One airman was killed and the other parachuted to safety.

The official KPNLF radio Samleng in a broadcast from the border said Wednesday the guerrillas were forced to abandon Ampil because the Vietnamese used "chemical weapons" but this could not be confirmed.

Ampil fell one day after the sixth anniversary of the ousting of Kampuchea's Peking-backed Khmer Rouge government by Vietnamese-led forces.

The KPNLF is in a coalition with the Khmer Rouge and supporters of Prince Norodom Sihanouk which is recognised by the United Nations as the legitimate government of Kampuchea.

Western diplomats estimate Hanoi maintains between 160,000 and 180,000 troops in Kampuchea.

Fire at French old peoples' home kills 39

BEAUVAIS, France (R) — President Francois Mitterrand delayed a cabinet meeting and headed for this northern French town Wednesday as the death toll in a fire in an old people's home was reported to have reached 39.

The Elysee Palace said Mr. Mitterrand had left for Grandvilliers, a suburb of Beauvais 75 kilometres north of Paris, to visit the devastated hospice, hit by fire early Wednesday. He was also expected to meet some of the 160 survivors.

French radio said the death toll had reached 39, although a spokesman at the local prefecture said the latest official figure was still 30.

Meanwhile firemen in the town of Troyes, south east of Paris, struggled with frozen hoses and water mains as fire raged unchecked through a row of shops. Local officials said there were no casualties.

Eyewitnesses said the fire, which started about 1 a.m., engulfed the first floor of the two-storey building in Grandvilliers which housed 200 old people, many of them bedridden.

Charles Falluel, a local doctor who took part in rescue operations throughout the night, blamed the fire on freezing weather which burst water pipes and short-circuited an electric cable in the roof.

"When I got there flames were engulfing the top floor, pouring out of the roof. It was a miracle no one was killed," he said.

Several of the 160 firemen who spent five hours battling the blaze suffered from frostbite in sub-zero conditions.

Mr. Mitterrand delayed the start of the weekly cabinet meeting by an hour and a quarter in

order to travel to Beauvais.

Local officials said it was one of the heaviest death tolls in a fire of this nature in France. In May 1982, 22 people died when fire swept through a school for handicapped children in south western France and 21 old people suffocated when fire hit their hospice in Dijon in April 1980.

In the ancient city of Troyes, scores of firefighters battled a blaze spreading through the streets of the city centre early Wednesday, officials said.

There were no victims but several shops were already razed and the fire was spreading, the officials added.

They said firemen were unable to find sufficient water to put out the blaze because a five-day cold spell had left water-pipes frozen solid. The fire broke out at 3 a.m.

In Beauvais, firemen brought the blaze under control at 6 a.m. and were searching the wreckage.

One rescue worker said firemen from all over the region sped to the scene but added: "Because the victims were sick, bedridden and aged, many were unable to respond or react in time."

Prime Minister Laurent Fabius issued a statement saying the fire had been accidental and sent three ministers to the scene. They were Interior Minister Pierre Joxe, Social Affairs Minister Georges Dufoix and Secretary of State for the Elderly Joseph Franceschi.

As fire ravaged the old people's home at Grandvilliers, firemen and rescue workers ferried some 160 occupants to local hospitals.

A spokesman at the Beauvais Prefecture said that one wing of the hospice had been destroyed in the fire. He added: "There are still bodies in there. We haven't got them all out yet."

U.S. postpones military shuttle launch

WASHINGTON (AP) — The scheduled first launch of a U.S. space shuttle from the military site at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California has been postponed more than three months because a veteran of the fleet, the shuttle Challenger, has been out of commission due to tile problems.

Reportedly, the air force also requires additional time to ready the payload, a satellite called Teal Ruby, for the mission. Teal Ruby is equipped with infrared instruments to detect objects in the atmosphere, such as cruise missiles, airplanes and ships at sea.

"The air force and NASA jointly agreed to delay the first shuttle launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base until not earlier than Jan. 29, 1986," said an announcement from the Pentagon.

The first Vandenberg launch had been scheduled for Oct. 15, 1985. Challenger had been taken out of commission following its sixth trip into space last October because of softening in the adhesive that binds the heat-protective tiles to the spacecraft. It is expected to be flight-worthy again by the end of February.

The delay put a crimp in NASA's schedule and caused the

agency to shift a secret military satellite from Challenger to Discovery and delayed the launch from Dec. 8, 1984 to Jan. 23.

Under the agreement between the air force and NASA, Discovery — the only ship currently flight-ready — will remain at Kennedy Space Centre and be used for two additional flights in mid-1985. In that way, the shuttle will carry cargo originally scheduled for Challenger.

All 45 of NASA's manned launches to date have been from the Kennedy Space Centre at Cape Canaveral, Florida, where trajectories over the ocean to the east pick up added velocity at no cost of fuel because of the earth's west-to-east rotation.

But Kennedy Space Centre is inconvenient for launching spacecraft into orbits carrying them into a polar orbit. Such a launch from Florida would carry the spacecraft over heavily populated areas to the north of the space centre, and cause problems with jet-tioning rocket boosters.

Vandenberg is on the coast north of Los Angeles. By launching to the south from Vandenberg, a shuttle would be over water during the critical boost and

rocket-jettisoning phase.

The shuttle Columbia, the first in the fleet to fly, is undergoing extensive modernisation. Its next scheduled flight is in October 1985. The last shuttle, Atlantis, will be delivered to the Cape in April for September launch.

Meanwhile President Reagan invited the Soviet Union to talks on staging a rendezvous in space that might have led to further joint space ventures but was turned down, the White House said Tuesday.

Mr. Reagan proposed the talks last June through diplomatic channels "but did not receive a positive response," spokesman Larry Speakes told reporters.

"We're willing to discuss it at any time," he said.

The disclosure that Mr. Reagan sought closer cooperation in space came as Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and Secretary of State George Shultz held talks in Geneva on fresh negotiations to limit arms, including those launched in space.

Moscow insists that Mr. Reagan should drop plans for a so-called "Star Wars" space defence development programme.

El Salvador gets U.S. gunship

SAN SALVADOR (R) — The United States has supplied El Salvador's air force with a gunship capable of firing 2,000 machine-gun rounds a minute to boost its strength against leftist guerrillas, an American official has said.

The official said the C-47 twin-propeller aircraft fitted with three 50mm machine-guns had arrived during the last two weeks and had already been in action at least once against rebels.

He said the low-flying, slow-moving aircraft could be used at night as well as in the day.

Washington has for several months been considering converting Salvadoran DC-3 aircraft to AC-47 gunships — the type known as "puff the magic dragon," which earned a fearsome reputation in Vietnam for its ability to fire 18,000 rounds a minute.

The U.S. official said the C-47 had slower-firing guns which were easier to maintain. Nevertheless, it had considerable and accurate firepower which made it more suitable than a bomber in some operations.

Human rights groups have said bombing runs by the air force inflict more casualties on civilians near combat zones than on guerrillas.

U.S. officials have said gunships can attack with more precision than bombers. But the human rights groups argue that improper use of gunships could lead to even greater casualties among civilians.

A spokesman for the rebel Farabundo Marti Liberation Front said yesterday that an aircraft strafed rebel positions on the Guazapa Volcano north of the capital.

The U.S. official said he did not know if more C-47s would be sent to El Salvador, which depends on U.S. aid in its war against the rebels.

Military observers said C-47s could improve the army's performance in the civil war and limit the rebels' ability to attack installations like bridges and factories.

Greece approves new defence policy

ATHENS (R) — Greek foreign affairs and defence experts have approved a new defence policy which officials say stresses the perceived military threat of fellow NATO member Turkey more than that of neighbouring Communist states.

The experts, meeting under Socialist Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, approved a policy document, but an official statement gave few details.

Greek officials said in advance of the meeting that the text would reflect their belief that the military threat to Greece comes from Turkey, not from Communist neighbours.

Greece borders on Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Albania to the north.

The statement said the new philosophy was based on the idea that "Greece does not claim anything

from anybody, but does not give up anything to anybody over sovereign rights." Greece often uses this phrase to describe policy over Turkey.

Greek officials have said the new doctrine will not affect forces normally earmarked for the Atlantic alliance. Mr. Papandreu has said Greece would prefer to be out of NATO, but he has made it clear this is a long-term goal.

A senior Greek source said the document "did not necessarily imply a redeployment of forces. It involves a clarification of the purpose of the existing deployment."

Newspapers close to the conservative opposition, which governed from 1974-81, have been sceptical about how new the doctrine is, saying Greek defence thinking had concentrated on a possible Turkish invasion ever since

1974, when Turkey invaded Cyprus.

The official statement said the document "was also based on the application of a truly multidimensional foreign policy whose axis is the development of relations of friendship and cooperation with all countries."

Similar language has been used by Greek officials to describe efforts, begun under the conservatives and intensified by Mr. Papandreu, to improve relations with Eastern Europe.

The official statement said the new defence doctrine also covers arms procurement policies.

Greek officials have said their country, overwhelmingly reliant on Western arms, wants to build up its own fledgling arms industry and reduce dependence on outside sources.

Seoul renews call for summit talks with North

SEOUL, South Korea (Agencies) — South Korean President Chun Doo-hwan Wednesday renewed his call for summit talks between South and North Korea and also proposed an exchange of "liaison missions" between the two Korean capitals.

There was apparently no link between Mr. Chun's comments and the announcement Wednesday by North Korean officials that they were postponing humanitarian talks with the South because of upcoming joint manoeuvres of South Korean and American troops.

As he did when he first aired a similar proposal four years ago, Mr. Chun referred to the North Korean leader as President Kim Il Sung, a formal form of address seldom used by South Korean officials for the North Korean ruler.

"At a time when exchanges of visits with foreign leaders have become almost routine, there is no reason why the top leaders of the South and the North cannot meet with each other," Mr. Chun said in a New Year policy address before the National Assembly.

The North Korean President in an earlier New Year message to his people said a top-level meeting between the South and North may become possible if talks between lower-level officials continued "in accordance with the spirit of national reunification."

South Korea, however, has urged the North to agree to a summit talk immediately without preconditions.

The South Korean president also proposed that "permanent liaison missions be stationed in Seoul and Pyongyang in order to ease South-North tensions..."

The South and the North were split at the 38th parallel at the end of World War II and became bitter enemies during the Korean War.

Meanwhile about 200 police Wednesday surrounded the home of leading South Korean dissident Kim Young-Sam for the second day in a row, to enforce a government ban on him taking part in political activities.

But the police later withdrew without explanation and Mr. Kim was able to leave for meetings with political colleagues.

The former opposition leader was stopped from leaving the house yesterday when 150 police blocked a street leading to it for almost three hours.

Mr. Kim, 57, is one of 15 dissidents subject to a government ban on political activity. Police admitted they were preventing him from attending meetings connected with general elections expected in February.

On Wednesday larger force of police — estimated at more than 200 — turned up and at one point surrounded the building and prevented people from entering the house, eyewitnesses said.

Mr. Kim told reporters he would never yield to government threats and would continue to fight against what he called a military dictatorship.

He said he considered the ban illegal and could not accept what amounted to daily house arrest. He has been subjected to two long periods of house arrest in the past three years.

Mr. Kim, along with former presidential candidate Kim Dae-jung, is banned from taking part in politics by President Chun Doo Hwan's government until 1988.

Nicaraguan leaders see hard times ahead

MANAGUA (R) — A Sandinist leader Wednesday painted a gloomy picture of Nicaragua's future, saying the inauguration of an elected president would do nothing to lessen military and economic pressure from the United States.

On the eve of the ceremonial swearing-in of Daniel Ortega as president, one of his colleagues in the nine-man directorate of the ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) said the war against U.S.-backed insurgents would rage unabated and continue

to drain the economy here.

"There is a difficult year ahead, worse than last year," said Bayardo Arce, the FSLN directorate's coordinator of political affairs. "There is no sign that the Reagan administration intends to change its policy of aggression against Nicaragua," he added in an interview with Reuters.

Diplomats here say the inauguration of Ortega comes at a time when Nicaragua's leadership is grappling with its worst economic and military problems.

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to drain the economy here.

"There is a difficult year ahead, worse than last year," said Bayardo Arce, the FSLN directorate's coordinator of political affairs. "There is no sign that the Reagan administration intends to change its policy of aggression against Nicaragua," he added in an interview with Reuters.

Diplomats here say the inauguration of Ortega comes at a time when Nicaragua's leadership is grappling with its worst economic and military problems.

Ortega said the war against U.S.-backed insurgents would rage unabated and continue

COLUMNS 7&8

Iraqi doctor found gagged, stabbed

LONDON (AP) — An Iraqi doctor studying in Britain was found stabbed and seriously wounded in his car parked at the side of an expressway in southern England, police said. A truck driver found Dr. Enad Hammadi, 31, slumped in his car on the M4 Expressway near Reading, 58 kilometres west of London, according to police. Police detective superintendent David Freeland said Dr. Hammadi was "apparently seriously injured" but was expected to survive. He said the doctor was found bound and gagged and suffered multiple stab wounds. No information on his assailant or assailants was yet known but a getaway car was used in the attack, Freeland said.

Cobra puts radio station off the air

GARISSA, Kenya (R) — A radio station in northeastern Kenya went off the air for two hours Tuesday after a 120-metre Cobra slithered into a studio. The Kenya News Agency (KNA) reported Wednesday. A spanner thrown by an employee killed the poisonous intruder after electric shocks and a spray of methylated spirits failed to drive it out. A local employee said the station, in the town of Garissa, was constantly doing battle with scorpions and snakes.

Nixon has severe shingles

NEW YORK (R) — Former President Richard Nixon has a severe case of shingles and is in excruciating pain, his administrative assistant said Tuesday. Shingles, caused by the Chicken Pox virus, is a form of herpes which affects the nerve endings, causing high fevers and blisters along the affected nerves. Mr. Nixon is afflicted on his left shoulder and upper back, said John Taylor, the administrative assistant at his New York office. "Someone said it's like having molten metal poured on your skin," he added.

Top aide to Prince Charles quits

LONDON (R) — The man grooming Prince Charles to be Britain's future king has resigned as his private secretary after six years. Buckingham Palace said Wednesday the resignation of 45-year-old Edward Adeane had been received with regret. He would leave his post on March 31. The Daily Express said royal circles were rocked by the sudden resignation of Mr. Adeane, a Cambridge-educated barrister and bachelor who came from a long line of courtiers. Adeane had also been serving as private secretary and treasurer to Prince Charles' wife, Princess Diana, for the last year, taking over when her top aide Oliver Everett quit.

Charlton Heston makes stage debut

LONDON (R) — Charlton Heston, a Hollywood superstar for three decades, will make his long-awaited debut on the London stage next month. Heston, 60, will direct and star in the Caine Mutiny Court-Martial. He told reporters Tuesday: "If you haven't acted on the stage in London, you haven't acted at all. The London stage is still the capital of the English-speaking theatre." Heston will play Lieutenant Commander Queeg, a role made famous by Humphrey Bogart in the 1954 film version of the American play. The play will be staged in Brighton, Bath and Manchester before opening at the Queen's theatre in London on Feb. 28.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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AN ENTRY IN A VOID SUIT

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K J
♥ 8 5 3 2
♦ Q 8 6
♣ A J 7 3

WEST **EAST**
♠ 2 ♠ 10 8 6 3
♥ 7 6 4 ♥ J 10 9
♦ J 10 7 5 ♦ K 9
♣ 10 9 8 6 2 ♣ K Q 5 4

SOUTH
♠ A Q J 9 7 5
♥ A K Q
♦ A 4 3 2
♣ Void

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass
6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠.

If you have the choice of winning a trick in one hand with a high card or in the other with a ruff, it is often right to ruff if you can afford to spend a trump. That principle bore unexpected fruit on this deal.

Note North's false preference of three spades on a doubleton honor. This is clearly the correct bid because he needs four-card support to raise South's second suit. When South simply went on to game, North made one more move by showing his diamond feature, and South needed no further encouragement.

West led the top of his club sequence, and it seemed the contract hinged on finding West with the king of diamonds. Indeed, had declarer won the ace of clubs at trick one, that would have been the case. However, declarer wisely played low from the table and ruffed in hand. He drew trumps in four rounds, with West and dummy both sluffing clubs.

Before committing himself to a diamond lead toward the queen, declarer cashed his three hearts. Both defenders followed, so the board's remaining heart was established. Now declarer cashed the ace of diamonds and continued with a low diamond to the queen and East's king.

Declarer's careful groundwork now paid a huge dividend.

East was down to nothing but clubs, so he was forced to throw dummy on lead with the ace of that suit. Declarer discarded his remaining diamonds on the high club and the heart winner, and a slam that seemed doomed came home for handsome profit.

We are not claiming that declarer foresaw all this when he ducked the club at trick one. It is simply a case of good technique earning a just reward.

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YOUNG AT HEART

By Frank R. Jackson

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|------------|------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Grey work | 1 Bell sound | 11 Servile | 1 Embarrass |
| 2 Architectural feature | 2 Unctuous | 12 Servile | 2 Chivalrous |
| 3 Accumulate | 3 Pa. port | 13 Servile | 3 Arson fighters |
| 4 Conquer | 4 Encountered | 14 Servile | 4 Rb stop |
| 5 Lightly | 5 Denials | 15 Servile | 5 Toss the mark |
| 6 Shamrock land | 6 Denial | 16 Servile | 6 Toss the mark |
| 7 Slow down | 7 Too much Fr. | 17 Servile | 7 Toss the mark |
| 8 Musicality | 8 Improve | 18 Servile | 8 Toss the mark |
| 9 Measure | 9 Road meat | 19 Servile | 9 Toss the mark |
| 10 Start of a new verse | 10 Passage | 20 Servile | 20 Toss the mark |
| 11 Castile | 11 Cupid | 21 Servile | 21 Toss the mark |
| 12 South | 12 Conclude | 22 Servile | 22 Toss the mark |
| 13 Secular | 13 Class | 23 Servile | 23 Toss the mark |
| 14 Telegraphic | 14 Despatch | 24 Servile | 24 Toss the mark |
| 15 This of respect | 15 Recruit | 25 Servile | 25 Toss the mark |
| | | 26 Servile | 26 Toss the mark |
| | | 27 Servile | 27 Toss the mark |
| | | 28 Servile | 28 Toss the mark |
| | | 29 Servile | 29 Toss the mark |
| | | 30 Servile | 30 Toss the mark |
| | | 31 Servile | 31 Toss the mark |
| | | 32 Servile | |